



Testimony on Senate Bill 794
Senate Education Committee
March 11, 2019

Chair Wagner, Vice-Chair Thompson, and members of the Committee. My name is Kyle Thomas, and I am the Director of Legislative and Policy Affairs for the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Senate Bill 794.

The HECC believes that SB 794 provides policymakers with another important data point to consider in designing approaches and programs to maximize the success of Oregon students.

We have contacted Sen. Gelser's office to request three minor and clarifying amendments to the bill that we hope the committee will consider. My understanding is that Legislative Counsel is currently drafting these amendments. They are:

1. Ensuring that the use of the word 'parent' in the bill is not specific to biological parents.
2. Requiring that information about parental status be requested only once per year, rather than on every form requiring demographic information.
3. Because we do not currently tie student income data to other demographic markers currently collected by institutions, eliminating the requirement that we connect parental status to income. This will reduce and administrative costs associated with the bill.

I want to thank Sen. Gelser and Michaela Martin for agreeing to these small amendment requests.

Thank you for your time today.