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**OREGON COMMUNITY COLLEGE ASSOCIATION TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 3075
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE
MARCH 19, 2019**

Chair Salinas, members of the committee, for the record I'm John Wykoff, Deputy Director of the Oregon Community College Association; and I am here today in support of HB 3075.

Under current statute, some community college employees will lose access to coordinated (or dual) health care coverage for their families while others will not. At this time, all 17 community colleges provide health through the Oregon Education Benefits board for most or all employee groups. Without HB 3075, those employees whose spouse or partner is also covered by an OEBC or PEBC plan will lose access to dual coverage in October. These employees will lose the advantage of dual coverage simply because both spouses work in public service, while employees whose spouse or partner works in the private sector will still have the benefit of dual coverage. Health care coverage is a benefit of employment that both family members have earned, and we believe it is unfair to penalize some employees simply because both are public employees.

Coordinated coverage can be an important tool to give covered families greater choice and flexibility as well as lower out of pocket costs. In many rural parts of the state where public employers make up a larger percentage of the employment base, this coverage loss could be even greater.

The prohibition of dual coverage on public employees was intended to lower costs to the general fund on health care coverage. While the state appears to save far less than originally estimated the cost to employees will be real.

On behalf of Oregon's 17 community colleges, we urge the committee to support HB 3075.