



**Testimony on House Bill 2871 -1**  
House Education Committee  
April 1, 2019

Chair Doherty, Vice-Chairs Alonso Leon and Helt, 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 House Bill 2871 -1

HB 2871 -1 makes multiple minor and technical changes to the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps (OYCC) statutes. These changes were originally a part of HB 2030, but after consulting with the Committee, we wanted to provide members an opportunity to hear more about the program and how OYCC is funded – given that the program is funded through a tax on video gaming devices and some of that language appears in the bill.

Even though the program itself is funded directly through tax revenue, and tax language is in the bill, there are no changes in this revenue source or the amounts OYCC receives. The bill makes five changes to the program statutes:

1. **NAME CHANGE** – The bill changes the name of the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps to the Oregon Youth Corps, in recognition of the expansion of the mission and activities of the Corps over time.
2. **NAME CHANGE** – The bill changes the name of the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps Advisory Committee to the Oregon Youth Corps Advisory Board. This change brings the Corp’s advisory group name in line with other similar names for Boards within the HECC
3. **AGENCY REFERENCES** – The bill replaces outdated references to the Office of Community Colleges and Workforce Development to the HECC and makes the lead authority the executive director of HECC, and not the director of CCWD.
4. **SUPPORT VOUCHERS** – The bill changes the permissible uses of vouchers participants receive for completing the program. With the change, participants will be able to use vouchers on services that enhance and support education and employment, but just at post-secondary institutions
5. **OYCC SCOPE** – Allows OYCC to, in addition to its long list of current activities in section 4 of the bill, perform gardening, greenhouse and farming programs

At the Committee’s invitation I am here with Karen Humelbaugh, our Director for the Office of Workforce Investments, and Doug Denning, the Director of OYCC to tell you more about the program, and I will now turn it over to them.

Thank you for your time today.