

Oregon Student Association



April 3, 2019

To: House Committee on Education
From: Anayeli Jimenez
RE: HB 3280

Chair Doherty, Vice-Chairs Alonso Leon & Helt, and Members of the Committee,

Good Afternoon. My name is Anayeli Jimenez and I served on the Higher Education Coordinating Commission from August 26th, 2013 through June 30th, 2015.

During my time as the community college student commissioner I was given plenty of opportunities to voice my opinion on behalf of students on the community college level. I also sat on multiple committees that worked on finding ways to make higher education more accessible and affordable for students. As a representative without voting rights, I constantly felt my opinions were heard but not validated. I felt this to be true primarily knowing each commissioner has their own stake on this board; their own interests and perspectives. It seemed disempowering and not within the spirit of equity or democracy that I should be denied a vote.

As a student who was highly engaged in the political climate around higher education in this state, I strongly felt that my voice mattered. And for this, I strongly felt the lack of voting power was a huge barrier to my full contribution as commissioner. This board ultimately serves institutions of higher education whom serve students. If we cannot recognize the importance of voting rights for the seats listed in HB 3280, then the HECC can not move forward in achieving the statutory education completion goals of 40/40/20 which were established when I served as commissioner.

As someone who took great pride in the work I contributed while on the HECC, I urge you to support HB 3280 that established voting rights for vital stakeholders on the board.

Thank you.
Sincerely,

Anayeli Jimenez
OSA Organizing Director
13-15 HECC Student Commissioner

OREGON STUDENT ASSOCIATION

The Oregon Student Association (OSA) is a statewide, student-led advocacy and organizing non-profit established in 1975 to represent, serve, and protect the collective interests of students in postsecondary education in Oregon

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