



OREGON COALITION OF COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOLS

To: Senate Committee on Education
From: Oregon Coalition of Community Charter Schools (ORC3S)
Re: Senate Bill 800
Date: April 3, 2019

Chair Wagner and members of the Senate Committee on Education:

We, the Oregon Coalition of Community Charter Schools, (ORC3S) write to you in support of Senate Bill 800 – a bill that would improve the credit transfer process for Oregon high school students attending public post-secondary institutions in the state.

Our coalition, ORC3S, represents a number of public charter high schools across the state, all of which offer accelerated coursework and dual enrollment opportunities for our students. We encourage and support our students to take coursework that is engaging, pushes them academically, and helps prepare them for their post-secondary experiences – sometimes that is accelerated coursework on our campus and other times at, and in collaboration with, our local community colleges and 4-year universities.

Our intent in supporting students to take accelerated courses is to allow them to:

- Explore fields of study prior to entering post-secondary
- Save money by jumpstarting their post-secondary schooling
- Reduce the amount of time they spend finishing their post-secondary studies

Unfortunately, most of our students find the process for transferring their credits (especially those for Advanced Placement-like classes) to be confusing, burdensome, and ultimately defeating. Students start their accelerated learning programs or college coursework excited and full of the possibility for the doors this will open – only to find that they'll have to re-take many courses. Because, instead of helping them get ahead in their chosen major or field of student, they are only able receive elective credits for their hard work.

Oregon needs to improve the process for the transfer of credit from high school to higher education, and among higher education institutions. Senate Bill 800, and the -1 amendment, is a good starting point. Oregon's students deserve an educational experience that encourages them to challenge themselves academically, supports them on that journey, and provides for a more seamless transition between systems. By improving the credit transfer process, we can improve a part of that experience.

We thank you for your consideration and encourage you to support SB 800 with the -1 amendment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Iris Maria Chavez".

Iris Maria Chavez

Oregon Coalition of Community Charter Schools (ORC3S)