

Testimony on Senate Bill 800

Senate Education Committee April 3, 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 800.

Several members of HECC staff participated in multiple workgroup meetings to bring this bill to this point, and I want to thank Ozzie Rose and the Education Service Districts for listening to some of the concerns members of the higher education community, HECC included, expressed regarding the underlying bill.

The amendments being drafted establish processes by which HECC will convene stakeholders to address how the new Core Transfer Map—the 30 credit foundational curriculum established under HB 2998 (2017)—can be used to guide accelerated learning credit offerings in high schools and how this guidance can result in greater numbers of accelerated learning credits accepted upon enrollment in an Oregon public postsecondary institution.

The Core Transfer Map is a useful guiding document for the discussion required under the proposed amendment. By its nature, it is comprised of courses most sensibly offered in the first year of a student's college experience, and that are most apt to provide for meaningful transfer opportunities for an accelerated learning credit student. We appreciate the opportunity to continue to construct a statewide credit transfer system that provides students with opportunities to reduce time and cost to degree.

SB 800, once amendments are drafted, does have a fiscal impact for the HECC, as HECC is charged with playing the role of convener and facilitator. We look forward to working with members to ensure that HECC has the resources to perform this important work.

Thank you for your time today.