

**Paul L Evans**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
**DISTRICT 20**



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

April 3, 2019

House Committee on Education  
80<sup>th</sup> Oregon Legislative Assembly  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Ref: HB 3280

Dear Colleagues:

Please accept this letter of support for HB 3280. It seeks to re-designate five (5) non-voting memberships into voting memberships and adds a voting position for a graduate student attending a public university to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). This measure is about fairness: all too often it is assumed (perhaps wrongly) that the perspectives of all university administration, faculty, staff, and students are “the same.” In truth, the dynamic realities associated with the recent de facto dissolution of the university “system” and its governance mechanisms has yet to realize the promise so loudly advanced by past advocates.

There are many of us throughout the state that are concerned about the seeming lack of systemic thinking in terms of our near-term, medium-term, and far-term strategies. Our current decentralized amalgamation favors division rather than unity. Our existing seven (7) or perhaps soon to be eight (8) distinct campus-specific perspectives lack a statewide “unifying” perspective. We are witnessing a balkanization of our campuses with a rise in competition rather than collaboration or coordination among our public institutions at a time when resources are growing scarcer.

HB 3280 is not the solution to the many challenges facing our public universities, but it is a step forward. It is a method for ensuring a statewide lens for navigating the challenges of economic, structural, and systemic sustainability. This bill will ensure a more inclusive, comprehensive process and improve the HECC. HB 3280 will yield us a better toolkit; it warrants our support.

In conclusion, if you have questions or require additional information, please let me know. I appreciate your attention on this matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul L. Evans".

Rep Paul Evans  
State Representative  
House District 20