

# Oregon Student Association



April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019

To: House Committee on Education  
From: Perla Alvarez, Legislative Director  
RE: HB 2942

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

My name is Perla Alvarez and I am the Legislative Director for the Oregon Student Association. The Oregon Student Association represents over 130,000 students statewide and work towards an affordable and accessible higher education for all Oregonians. The Oregon Student Association supports HB 2942 which would require the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to adopt a statewide higher education equity plan and appoint an individual as a full-time Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer to oversee this plan.

As Oregon K-12 schools and higher education institutions are becoming more diverse, it is crucial to have more cultural competent institutions and implement a plan that will ensure not only the recruitment of communities color but also identify the resources needed for the retention and success of these communities.

One of the Oregon Student Association's priorities in 2017 was HB 2864, which ensured that universities and community colleges establish a process for cultural competency standards however, there is currently no one overseeing that this work is being done effectively at these institutions and as a result, students are taking on the work. The DEI position that would be created through this bill would ensure that this work is being implemented.

OSA encourages the committee to support HB 2942.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Perla Alvarez  
Legislative Director  
Oregon Student Association

## OREGON STUDENT ASSOCIATION

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