

**Joint Committee on Student Success**  
**Written Testimony, HB 2019, April 11, 2019**  
**Betty Reynolds, Ph.D**  
**Clackamas Community College, Board of Directors**  
**bettyreynolds1@comcast.net**

Co-Chair Roblan, Co-Chair Smith Warner, Co-Vice Chair Knopp, Co-Vice Chair Smith and Members of the Committee,

As a member of a community college board, a school board, Past President and current Board member of Oregon School Boards Association, and OSBA representative to the Oregon Community Colleges Association, I have a deep appreciation of education as a continuum. College and career readiness begins with the k-12 experience, and community colleges play a vital role in the continuum as an accessible, affordable, equitable pathway to a career, or transfer option to universities.

We frequently hear from employers that they have jobs and they need an educated workforce to fill those jobs. But Oregon tuition increases have placed student debt higher than it's ever been, and we frequently hear from community college students that they're at risk of not completing college because of costs.

The Committee's hard work and support of public education is appreciated. However, the lack of investment in community colleges in the Committee's proposals is disappointing. Please support Governor Brown's call for new funding of \$75 million for Oregon Opportunity Grants and \$70 million for Community College CTE, so that all students can fulfill their dreams, Oregon's workforce needs are met, and Oregon's economy thrives.

Thank you.