NEWPORT HIGH SCHOOL
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February 12, 2019

Re: SB 160, IB Credit Parity

Dear Senator Wagner and members of the committee,

Thank you for taking testimony on this bill. I would like to address some of the issues presented by the University of Oregon (U of O) faculty member at the hearing, and address some of the questions raised about the bill at the hearing.

1. We want high school students to attempt the challenge of taking International Baccalaureate (IB) and Advance Placement (AP) courses because research has shown that this is the best way to ensure student success in college. Students are more likely to take these courses if they feel they can earn college credit by doing so.

2. The focus of this bill is to give **parity** to the International Baccalaureate (IB) students' exam scores that the Oregon state legislature gave Advance Placement (AP) **with SB 207 in 2017**. We are not asking for something new. **We are asking for fairness**. As with SB 207, SB 160 gives Oregon colleges the ability to address concerns about course credit for individual IB courses through providing documentation of concerns to HECC.

3. Very little evidence was provided to support the U of O faculties' questioning of giving credit for a '4' on IB exams. The U of O ignored their own more recent research on the value of students taking IB courses and the influence this has on students' success at U of O. I have attached this research with this letter (collegereadinesssummaryeng U of O.pdf). In addition, there was no comparison with how a student who earned a '3' on an AP exam (now given college credit through SB 207) or how students at college who took a prerequisite course at that college (rather than using an IB exam score) did in a following course and therefore there is no way to know if the research mentioned had any meaning in this instance at all.

4.The other states that have or are moving to give college credit for a '3' on AP and a '4' on IB exams are;

   a. Washington State: passed ESB5917 (attached to this email)
   b. Illinois: passed SB 2505 (attached to this email)
   c. North Carolina is working on a bill.
   d. Florida Universities: New College, University of Florida and others give college credit for an IB score of a '4' or higher.
      New College: https://www.ncf.edu/admissions/apply-to-new-college/first-year-students/ibapaice-scores/
      Univ. of Florida: https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-advising/exam-credit/#examstext-otp1
      Florida A&M: http://www.famu.edu/index.cfm?Registrar&CreditByExamination
   e. Many other higher ed. institutions award college credit of a '4' or higher on IB exams.

Sincerely,

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