

First, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to each of you Senator's that took the time to hear my testimony yesterday on HB 2033. From the types of questions you were asking it was clear that we all have the same common end goal which is to make sure the children here in Oregon are getting the best possible care and dignity possible. It was also clear that you do not take your position on voting on this Bill lightly. For that I sincerely thank you. It is comforting to know that people such as yourselves are in office to carefully consider Bills that effect so many. **I am grateful to you.**

Senator Fagan asked me a question yesterday (5/7/19) at the public hearing that I feel deserved a more informative and clear explanation on when she asked why an Associate's degree with additional training would not be sufficient (I am paraphrasing here so please forgive me). I have included a copy of my transcripts for reference since my degree is in Human Services with emphasis in Child Welfare & Family, but merely as a reference (this is not about me). From left to right shows the course, course title, credits, credits earned, etc. Under term TC means transfer credit earned from a previous university. Some of my credits did not transfer over due to not falling under the program requirements for the degree. You will see under the course that level 100 and level 200 classes were mostly what was transferred. These are credits/courses under the Associate's degree program. Level 300 and 400 courses are **ONLY** offered at the Bachelor degree level, and most of them require prerequisites of level 100 and 200 courses completed to qualify to enroll in the courses. For example, I could not sign up for the Culture – Religion and Identity course until I had completed both level 100 and 200 communications courses.

As a graduate of the program and current advocate I will be very honest with you, but will try to be brief, about what I feel were the most beneficial courses and why.

HU320 Culture-Religion and Identity – taught me a lot about other cultures globally and their challenges/legal boundaries here in the US. This taught me practical truths about why certain demographics feel the way they do about social justice and the historical background of their cultures life experiences that helps one to approach each demographic with empathy and understanding while being humble enough to ask questions and not make assumptions. This is important for any race, gender, sexuality, and social class to confront and learn to best serve others.

HN330 Case Management in Human Services – taught me a lot about the very real scenarios I would likely encounter while working directly with people/families/children. One example was a same sex couple who come in for counseling (the student is the counselor) one is being abused by the other and the abuser had lost her job and they are now facing financial ruin. She is drinking heavily to deal with the stress. Their teenage son is there (the reason for the counseling session the parents say) because he is exhibiting violent behaviors, signs of depression, and is failing school. At the end of the session the teenage boy makes a suicidal comment. The session should be over in a few short minutes. What do you do? This case study tackled many issues that sparked debate and conversation with a class of about 18 or so students for an entire week. What was learned by this week long debate and conversation was so valuable that I remember it to this day. This class does not happen at the Associates degree level.

The following courses (HN370 Child Welfare & Family; HN377 Adolescent Development; HN430 Advocacy for Families & Youth; HN450 Legal and Ethical Issues in HS) are also only offered at the Bachelor degree level, I could go on and on about how much I learned and value them but will simply say that the objectives I learned helped to prepare and mold me to go from a sheepish, quiet co-worker at a meaningless job, to a bulldog with a purpose of social justice that will seek and advocate no matter what to protect the client. I learned how to ask questions, the right questions to ask, what to do when the agency I am working for is unethical, how to separate my personal beliefs and agendas from those I am working to serve and protect, etc. and what the very real consequences are to not taking action when action is needed, and how detrimental assumptions can be.

There is benefit to a directed degree in social work, behavioral sciences, at the Associates level. I do not want to downplay that at all, however, I would like the Committee to be as informed as possible as to what the benefits are to the upper level courses at the Bachelor degree level. I think we all would like to see the requirements changed from unrelated degree requirements to a related degree program to best serve Oregonian children. Thank you for taking the time to carefully research and consider the benefits to a Bachelor degree requirement in human services that will positively impact Oregonian children and their families. I encourage you to also research other States outcomes where the degree requirements are focused and at a Bachelor and Master's degree level.

I have included a link to Rasmussen College (accredited in Oregon) which offers both an Associates and Bachelor's degree program for Human Services. It reads "At the Associate's degree level, our updated curriculum prepares you to make a difference as a social services **assistant**, care coordinator or community support coordinator/specialist. And as you ladder into the Bachelor's degree, that's where you can make your impact in roles such as social services manager or community services manager in settings ranging from **advocacy** organizations, rehabilitation services, public assistance programs, health facilities, **nonprofit organizations and government entities**. In the human services field, you can help individuals and make a profound impact on the lives of others."

<https://degrees.rasmussen.edu/human-services>

Thank you again for your time and I am available to answer any questions. Good luck in your decision and thank you once again for not taking this Bill lightly.

Charity Haskins

charityinoregon@gmail.com

503-917-1470