

Dear Senator Gelser,

I wanted to reach out to you with information regarding SB1544. This bill deals with creating rule limiting how career schools and colleges in Oregon calculate private and federal tuition assistance. Though the bill is intended to protect Oregon Veterans from predatory for-profit career schools, it in fact will limit choices veterans will have in choosing their future career path by eliminating programs which veterans frequent.

My greatest concern with this bill is it is frankly trying to solve an issue that does not exist in Oregon (it's a solution without a problem). Managing veteran's and student outcomes has been a strong focus of the HECC for many years. Past regulation within Oregon has created an environment where predatory schools have not been allowed to recruit students. Information presented by Ramond Curtis from Veterans Education Success makes this abundantly clear. Every school (100%) that Mr. Curtis has identified a veteran complaint with is no longer allowed to recruit in Oregon. The reason this bill is in Oregon today is VES, through its paid state director Mr. Curtis, is presenting this and similar bills nationwide. Because of the poor application to our state, this bill will create unnecessary regulation and financial burden on compliant schools that have a solid reputation in educating and graduating students to the workforce. It is notably the success these schools have achieved:

2017 Oregon Job Demand and Completion Data from Private Career Schools

Program Name: Culinary Arts

Total Completions:236 (49% of completions from Schools)

Private Career

Job Openings:6,800

Unfilled Jobs:6,564

Program Name: Medical/Clinical Assistant

Total Completions:851 (61% of completions)

Job Openings:1,490

Unfilled Jobs:639

Program Name: Cosmetology and Related Personal Grooming Services

Total Completions:688 (98% of completions)

Job Openings:1,250

Unfilled Jobs:562*

**Note that this includes multiple programs including hair stylists, nail technicians, makeup artists and skincare specialists.*

Program Name: Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation and Refrigeration

Total Completions:84 (21% of completions)

Job Openings:520

Unfilled Jobs:436

Program Name: Dental Assisting
Total Completions:301 (45% of completions)
Job Openings:650
Unfilled Jobs:349

Program Name: Massage Therapy
Total Completions:279 (61% of completions)
Job Openings:580
Unfilled Jobs:301

Program Name: Health Care Administration
Total Completions:249 (11% of completions)
Job Openings:440
Unfilled Jobs:191

Program Name: Veterinary Technician
Total Completions:97 (59% of completions)
Job Openings:170
Unfilled Jobs:73

Program Name:Licensed Practical Nurse
Total Completions:408 (67% of completions)
Job Openings:260
Unfilled Jobs:(148)

The data is quite clear on the role Private Career Schools play in filling the needs of the labor force and creating opportunities for veterans and students in Oregon.

What Mr. Curtis is not telling you is what a private career school really is like in Oregon. Gone are the days of large, publicly traded corporate schools. They no longer exist in our state. Not a single degree school is publicly traded in Oregon, regardless of Tax/for-profit status. These current private schools are compliant and have been educating and successfully graduating students for many years. The impact they make is immeasurable and is evident in the above data.

How will this bill impact schools? The first casualty will be schools that educate large number of veterans. Because of the poor wording in this bill, **all monies paid by veterans toward tuition will be counted in the school's 90/10 calculation, not just**

federal monies. This can be devastating to the school's calculation and will certainly create non-compliance for programs which serve high number of veterans. This Bill will create situations where some schools will need to place caps on and potentially no longer be able to serve veterans once the cap is met, as they will no longer be in compliance. This will happen despite many years of successfully and compliantly servicing veterans with strong occupational outcomes, and is **only related to the school's tax status, not its success in educating veterans.** I think most people in our state would find this unacceptable.

As I have said previously, this bill has definite language problems that will require much work and discussion to correct. Given the time and resources required to correct these issues, I feel this bill is not suited to a short legislative session. I request the Senator to not progress this bill forward until more adequate time can be utilized in a longer session to review and correct the large impact this bill will create.

I appreciate the time and ability to put forth these grave concerns.

Jeffrey Engh