



**Senate Bill 1501: Student Athletes
Senate Education Committee
Thursday, February 6, 2020**

Chair Wagner and members of the Committee, I am Jessica Ventura, Legislative Director for the Oregon Department of Education (ODE). Thank you for the opportunity to submit information on Senate Bill (SB) 1501 and provide more context on ODE's connection to athletic agents.

Background:

Athlete agents representing student athletes at post-secondary levels must obtain a certificate of registration ([ORS 702.012](#)). ODE issues those certificates. Currently, college athletes do not have the right to earn compensation during college for coaching and related services. They also do not have the right to earn compensation for the use of their names, images, and likenesses.

Senate Bill 1501:

SB 1501 will give a student enrolled in "post-secondary institutions of education" (term excludes community colleges) the right to earn compensation for coaching and related services and for the use of the student's name, image, or likeness. It also gives the student the right to contract with and retain professional representation or an athlete agent.

Currently, ODE issues those certificates ([ORS 702.012](#)). Because this may substantially increase the number of athlete agents seeking to register in Oregon, we anticipate that it will increase the number of certificates of registration ODE will need to issue leading to a need in additional staff to process those new registrations. As you consider the bill, we ask the following be taken into account:

- Because the bill makes changes that relate only to student athletes enrolled in post-secondary institutions, we recommend the bill be amended to make **an entity other than ODE** responsible for issuing certificates of registration to athlete agents that will be representing college athletes in matters addressed by this bill. All of the agents registered with us represent students in higher education, not students in K-12.

- We recommend the legislature also consider amending [ORS 702.005 to 702.065, 702.991, and 702.994](#) (the Uniform Athlete Agents Act) to: (a) transfer the ODE’s current responsibility to issue certificates of registration to athlete agents to another entity, making them responsible for issuing certificates of registration to **all** athlete agents working in Oregon, and (b), like [California](#), include a provision in the bill (i) requiring that all athlete agents comply with [the federal Sports Agent Responsibility and Trust Act \(15 USC 7801 et seq.\)](#) and (ii) convening a task force to develop proposals for addressing athlete agents representing community college students.

Respectfully,

Jessica Ventura
Legislative Director