

Chair Leon, Vice-Chairs Weber and Neron, and members of the Committee,

I appreciate the opportunity to share a few thoughts with you regarding House Bill 2989. Public education has been and will continue to be one of the best investments our state can make in promoting economic security, economic prosperity, and in maintaining our democratic freedoms. As an educator and the father of 4 children who have benefited and/or are currently reaping the benefits of these investments in public education, I want to personally thank you. The increased funding by the legislature in recent years are to be applauded.

From a systems standpoint, however, there are many opportunities for improvement as children enter into and exit our K-12 schools. House Bill 2989 seeks to shed light on one of these important opportunities, bridging the gap between the K-12 system and our Community Colleges.

Roseburg Public Schools is an interesting case study. We serve approximately 6,000 students in Douglas County, have 13 robust CTE options, are located proximate to Umpqua Community College, yet have too little coordinated interaction with the College. This lack of connection has led to an enormous opportunity cost for our children, our employers, and our local economy as our programs lack articulation and alignment. House Bill 2989 seeks to improve alignment K-14 and help sustain our educational investments beyond 12th grade.

As families across the state wrestle with paradoxical reality that is has been become too expensive for their children to attend college and too costly not to, let us seek for improvement in articulation between and across our K-12 schools and Community Colleges.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Jared Cordon  
Superintendent, Roseburg Public Schools