



Dear Chair Dembrow, Vice Chair Thomsen and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Emily Wanous and I am the Legislative Director of the Oregon Student Association. I am here to ask that you vote yes on HB2589, which would require GED students to receive the same placement tests and exemptions as college ready high school graduates.

If we have learned anything about sound higher education policy, it's that no two students have the same path to their degree. This also means that students come from a myriad of backgrounds and explore unique avenues to earn their high school diploma, whether that be reaching completion with a traditional high school diploma or through a GED program.

At the moment GED students are often required to take placement tests that other students do not have to. This places an unequitable burden on our GED students who have met college readiness standards equal to students who completed a traditional diploma.

Because not all placement tests are accurate, some GED students may be placed in remedial classes that they would otherwise have the skills to be exempt from. This translates to a longer graduation timeline that includes more course fees and tuition payments. Considering that many students are often priced out of our institutions due to a lack of state investment, adding additional time and money onto their timeline could be the difference of them attending or unenrolling.

As a matter of equity for our students, GED students should receive the same placement exams and exemptions as their college ready peers.

Thank you for your time and I urge you to pass this important legislation.

Emily Wanous, OSA Legislative Director, emily@orstudents.org