



Northwest Regional Education Service District

February 25, 2021

As a veteran school district and ESD superintendent that has worked with many systems of higher education to create more seamless and equitable Pre-K through 21 systems, please accept this letter of opposition to HB 2868.

For much of the past decade, Oregon K-12 schools and their college partners have worked to reduce traditional, longstanding barriers for low-income, first generation, and BIPOC students to get a foot through the door into college towards a family wage career - and into the middle class. A significant transformation has been made possible through creating more innovative dual credit systems that have high school teachers working along-side (and under direction of) master's level college faculty to award secondary level students post-secondary credit.

These programs greatly reduce college costs for families, open doors of possibility for our most historically marginalized students, while significantly raising the standards (and curricula options) in Oregon's high schools. Rather than relying on the old dual credit model, in which high school teachers were required to have a Masters in a specific content area, Sponsored Dual Credit allows Masters Level high school teachers to award 100 and 200 level credit under the direction of college faculty. In this collaboration, college faculty and master-level high school teachers work together to determine curriculum, assessments, and levels of proficiency - and to assess student work and assign credit.

HB 2868 would significantly reduce these options for our Oregon's children. It is unnecessary, costly, and imposes additional restrictions on current models that are making a difference for the very students and families who need public policy support the most. It requires additional college coursework and requirements for burdened high school teachers, which research consistently demonstrates has little impact on quality teaching and student mastery.

Simply put, HB 2868 would result in less opportunities for students across the state and would maintain antiquated barriers for Black, Indigenous, students of color, and potential first generation college goers; HB 2868 only increases opportunity gaps. Please oppose HB 2868.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for further assistance in understanding the impacts of this bill.

Sincerely,

Dan Goldman
Superintendent | Northwest Regional ESD

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