

Submitter: Carl Christoferson
On Behalf Of: All children and adults
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB3

Dear members of the Oregon Senate,

It is essential that our children graduate from High School with a reasonable level of financial literacy. As a former CPA I voluntarily taught Financial Beginnings financial literacy courses at Jefferson High School in North Portland and La Salle Catholic College Prep.in Milwaukie, Oregon. Students came in the evenings for the five part series. It was a joy to field their questions, teach them about banking, credit, investing, insurance and entrepreneurship. I am also the father of 3 young women in their late twenties. I taught the courses to them and their many cousins and friends. I continually hear from them how grateful they are for the knowledge they gained in the courses BECAUSE THEIR COLLEGE GRADUATE FRIENDS ARE CLUELESS ABOUT MANAGING MONEY AND INVESTING. I hear of adults who can't qualify for a reasonable mortgage rate because they got a credit card in the mail when they graduated from high school, bought a snowboard or some other toy and ignored the bills. I see adults borrowing from sub prime credit organizations because they were irresponsible (aka didn't understand finance) earlier in life.

When I was an 8th grader at Roosevelt Jr. High in Eugene, Oregon, I had a personal finance class. It was invaluable - I took one again at South Eugene High. We had it then, we should have it again! Please make it a requirement - it will truly enhance peoples lives for the rest of their lives.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Carl B. Christoferson