

Submitter: Lucy Fengxian Yuan Balthazaar

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Education

Measure: SB572

Dear Chair Dembrow and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Lucy Fengxian Yuan Balthazaar I'm a graduate of the CCS program also known as Career and Community Studies Program. I graduated from the CCS program during the Covid-19 pandemic in June of 2020. I started my freshman year in the CCS program in the Fall of 2016 at Portland State University.

The barriers I faced accessing post secondary before CCS was people with disabilities didn't get the opportunity to pursue higher education or to go on to a 4 year university and graduate with a pre baccalaureate certificate. Right after graduating from high school there were limited options for people with IDD one of the options was attending their local CTP program (Community Transition Program) that only lasted for 2 years until the student turned 21, after the student completed CTP their schooling or education was finished.

What I learned and experience during my time in the CCS program was the college experience and being on a college campus and being integrated in the campus community. I learned from different college professors and working on a on campus job while going to college as a undergraduate student in the CCS Program.

Why it's important to spread the CCS model at the community college so all students who experience IDD will have the same opportunities in the CCS program like I had. It's very important to include students who experience disabilities on a college campus.

Thank you, Senator Gelser Blouin and Representative Ruiz. It will help many more people with IDD who want a 4 year inclusive college experience.

Sincerely,

Lucy Fengxian ??? Yuan Balthazaar