

Submitter: Mark Browning

On Behalf Of: Blue Mountain Community College

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Education

Measure: HB5025

Good Morning Esteemed Committee Members,

While I appreciate the time, effort and energy already expended on this measure- I must ask for your "no" vote. Oregon's community college's cannot continue to deliver the needed skilled workforce to the state's businesses and industries when the resources that keep us educating, "skilling" and training Oregon's students are cut. The future of Oregon's students- the needed human resources - to keep our state growing and thriving come from the 17 community colleges. We take EVERYONE. Everyone who comes to us, regardless of circumstance, past academic performance, socio-economic status, - we embrace everyone. We connect everyone to the path that provides a better future through education. Here in rural Oregon, Blue Mountain students are finding robust futures in such varied fields as data center systems operations, unmanned aerial systems, business management, nursing, precision agriculture and of course, Associates of Oregon Transfer degrees. Those opportunities will be significantly limited if this approach continues. BMCC works diligently to partner with local industries and other regional institutions for the most optimal approach to these programs. We need the State of Oregon to continue to be a partner. For 61 years, we at BMCC have had a steadfast commitment to the betterment of our region through the access of higher education for our residents. We are counting on you in the Oregon legislature to continue on this journey with us-- for the betterment of Oregon's students and our state. Thank you.