

February 18, 2025

House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development
900 Court Street NE, HR C
Salem, OR 97301

RE: House Bill 2747 (online education for all prison inmates in Oregon)

Chair Hudson, Vice Chairs Fragala and Harbick, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sharron Noone and I am a former Probation and Parole officer for Multnomah County and the State of Oregon as well as a retired Professor of Public Administration at Portland State University. Over my 50 years of professional experience, the effect of education on the opportunities and functionality of probationers and students has been obvious to those of us working closely with misdemeanants and felons on our caseloads and in our classes. The very very low recidivism numbers that the Coffee Creek Portland State Program and Senator Mike Dembrow (retired) have shared with the committee reinforce my own experience. I urge you to provide all inmates with online educational support so that they can find lawful, more satisfying ways to support themselves. Thank you for your consideration of this important effort.

Sincerely,

Sharron M. Noone, Ph.D
Retired Professor of Public Administration
Portland State University.