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Education That Works

March 18, 2025

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

Dear Chair Hudson, Vice-Chairs Fragala & Harbick, and Committee Members,

As an institution that connects job seekers to commercial driver's license (CDL) training programs, Clackamas Community College provides this letter of testimony to support HB 3826. The trucking industry is vital to Oregon's economy, responsible for transporting 90.9% of manufactured goods. A projected nationwide shortage of 160,000 truck drivers by 2028 threatens supply chains and economic stability. Action needs to happen now to find and train the drivers that are needed.

Funding HB 3826 will allow for increased recruitment and training. Most importantly, it will help offset the high cost of training programs to encourage new workers. We work with job seekers every day, and they face many obstacles to finding work. HB 3826 will support people in overcoming barriers to obtaining a CDL.

Clackamas Community College partners with our local workforce development board, Clackamas Workforce Partnership, to provide wrap-around services for people pursuing CDL training. Oregon's nine workforce development boards already have infrastructure in place to leverage funds to help further investments go even further. Supporting HB 3826 is a responsible and effective use of state resources.

The College provides wraparound supports for people pursuing their CDL – so far this program year of 2024-2025 we have had 28 participants pursue their CDL. Out of those 28, so far 20 have completed training and 11 of those have secured employment earning wages ranging from \$17 to \$37/hr. The remaining 7 are in job search or in training.

Wraparound services include providing financial assistance towards tuition, employment placement and support services like gas cards, tools, test/exam fees, etc

The need for qualified drivers touches almost every industry. The ripple effect of funneling more people into CDL training programs will be felt well beyond Clackamas County. By supporting HB 3826, you will have a significant impact on Oregon's economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David C. Plotkin".

David C. Plotkin, Ph.D.
Vice President of Instruction and Student Services
Clackamas Community College