

Submitter: Lisa Daugherty
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

Chairs Lieber and Sanchez, Vice Chairs Girod, Gomberg & Smith, and members of the committee,

Testimony in Opposition to HB 2997
Lisa Daugherty, Administrator, at an Oregon Community College

My name is Lisa Daugherty, and I am an administrator at a community college in Oregon. I am writing to express my opposition to HB 2997, which would establish a designated grant fund within HECC to support college access and success programs for underserved students.

Based on my experience working in both rural schools and higher education, I have seen how similar funding initiatives have often been mismanaged, with resources absorbed by administrative overhead rather than reaching students directly. Programs such as TRIO and P3, while well-intentioned, have not demonstrated effective use of public funds and have supported initiatives that are not essential to student success, including services for undocumented students using Oregon taxpayer money.

Students in rural communities face real barriers to college access, including a lack of career education resources and counseling services. Direct funding to local public schools and community colleges would have a far greater impact by supporting programs that students and educators need most—without the added cost of administrative oversight tied to state-managed grants.

I urge you to support HB 2997 only if funding is allocated directly to schools and community colleges to benefit students, rather than to high-overhead grant programs like Oregon TRIO.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Sincerely,
Lisa