

Chair Hudson, Vice-Chair McIntire, Vice-Chair Dobson and members of the Committee,

I am writing to voice my concerns about HB4124 and urge you to carefully consider the wording in and potential repercussions of this bill.

I echo the concerns of the AAUP Oregon that the report could be misused to harm the quality of education in Oregon. I hope this bill will spur a discussion about the need for more state investment in public university education. Oregon invests less in public university funding than most other states. I am also very concerned that this report not be used to further narrow course offerings, especially in the humanities, to focus primarily on workforce development. Studies by NACE (National Association of Colleges and Employers) have shown that humanities courses provide students with core skills desired by employers. We should continue to invest in those courses and the skills they provide to Oregon students.

I stand with the AAUP that all curricular decisions must be made by faculty. I implore the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to collaborate with educators on these critical decisions to ensure the flourishing of Oregon's public university system.

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