



Oregon

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MEASURE: SB 1538
EXHIBIT: 3
2012 SESSION HIGHER EDUCATION
DATE: 02-23-2012 PAGES: 1
SUBMITTED BY: Josette Green

**Testimony on Senate Bill 1538a
House Committee on Higher Education
Feb. 23, 2012**

Good afternoon Co-Chairs Dembrow and Johnson and the members of the House Committee on Higher Education as well as the House Committee on Education. My name is Josette Green. I am the Executive Director of the Oregon Student Access Commission. At your request I am here to speak with you today on SB 1538a and I appreciate the opportunity to do so.

In the 2011 session SB 242 moved the function of the Office of Degree Authorization (ODA) from the Oregon Student Access Commission to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) effective July 1, 2012. OSAC has prepared for this separation and the Office of Degree Authorization led by Director Jennifer Diallo is ready to make the move – as ready as anyone can be when the HECC is still a concept without named leadership. The strategy used by OSAC when making decisions concerning the Office of Degree Authorization has been to keep the decisions very open so as leave future HECC leadership the ability to make decisions that correspond to the new structure.

SB 1538a moves the career schools from the Department of Education to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission in July 2013. The implication is that the career section and the Office of Degree Authorization will combine using the current leadership of the Office of Degree Authorization. Jennifer Diallo and the Office of Degree Authorization are ready to assume this leadership role and move forward.

While SB 1538a is to be implemented in July 1, 2013, the current state budget process requires that if the bill is passed that ODA and the career schools begin working together in March/April 2012 to create the budget for 2013-15. It is important that both the Department of Education and OSAC support their future HECC employees in this collaborative effort .

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today and I look forward to answering your questions.

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