Date   April 22, 2015

To   House Higher Education, Innovation and Workforce Development Committee

From   Dana Richardson, HECC Deputy Director, Legislative & Policy Affairs

Subject   Senate Bill 219

Good morning Chair Read, Vice Chairs Whisnant and Gallegos, and members of the committee. For the record, my name is Dana Richardson, Deputy Director for Legislative & Policy Affairs at the Higher Education Coordinating Commission.

Measure Overview
Senate Bill 219 is a technical bill to clarify agency processes. It makes three changes to existing law.

First, it requires that legislatively approved funding requests for public universities specify that the moneys are appropriated to the HECC for allocation to the public universities.

Second, it directs legislative appropriations for OHSU to the HECC for direct appropriation to OHSU.

Third, it specifies that, for the HECC to take official action, a majority of members of the HECC must approve.

What the Measure Does
ORS 351.054 says that the HECC can allocate moneys among the public universities but current law does not specify that legislatively-approved appropriations for public universities be appropriated to the HECC. Therefore, we are requesting this language to make that clear.

Currently, appropriations for OHSU are received by DAS for allocation to OHSU. This bill would direct the appropriation to the HECC instead and designate HECC as the one agency receiving postsecondary appropriations.

Lastly, the HECC has been advised by the Attorney General that current statutory language would allow a majority of the quorum of the Commission to transact business. We believe a higher standard is appropriate given the duties and responsibilities of the Commission.

Summary
Again, this bill is intended to help clarify agency processes by directing appropriations for OHSU and public universities to the HECC and adopting a more stringent standard for the Commission to take official action.

I appreciate your time today and would be happy to answer any questions.