



To: House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development
From: Richard Donovan, Oregon School Boards Association
Re: House Bill 2147
Date: March 8, 2017

Chair Reardon and members of the House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development:

On behalf of the Oregon School Boards Association membership, including 197 school districts and 19 Education Service Districts throughout the state of Oregon, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2147.

One of OSBA's legislative policies for the 2017-18 biennium is to support student achievement, and HB 2147 would generate information that will do just that. Currently, there is no information to connect the good work done by schools in getting students to graduate to the next steps that students take into post-secondary academia. I have heard repeatedly from many education stakeholders, including school board members, administrators, teachers, and parents, that they are generally aware of what students choose to do after graduating. But this information is anecdotal, something that often sounds like, "Yes, I know what happened to Johnny, he went off to the engineering program at OSU" or "Rachel got a full ride to play basketball at the U of O." Anecdotal evidence can be valuable, but it is not enough.

HB 2147 would give policy makers, from legislators to school district board members, more information. By requiring that all institutions in Oregon report to the Oregon Department of Education and the Higher Education Coordinating Commission information about how many of the enrolled students came from Oregon schools, education stakeholders will be able to make better decisions. Instead of having only partial, anecdotal information, policymakers will be able to find out where certain students are coming from, where they ended up, and will hopefully be one step closer to identifying practices to make sure that all students achieve success after graduation.

Oregon has made progress towards the mandated 40-40-20 attainment goal, but this progress has necessitated a certain level of "learning as we go" for all education stakeholders. HB 2147 will give stakeholders more information, allowing everyone to make better decisions. Again, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2147.

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