

Feb. 12, 2019

To Senator Wagner and the Senate Education Committee

Re: SB 160, for Feb. 13 2019 committee hearing

My name is Sophia Goodwin-Rice and I am currently a sophomore at Willamette University, originally from Newport, Oregon. While attending Newport High School, I participated in the International Baccalaureate Program, and ultimately received the Diploma at the end of my senior year. The IB Program provided me with invaluable skills and knowledge that I was able to use when I began college, and more than once I have felt that I had an advantage over my fellow Willamette students when it came to research, writing papers and time management.

While many of my Willamette peers attended high schools that offered them the choice between taking Advanced Placement or IB classes, Newport High School only offers the IB Program as a higher-level curriculum option. Similarly, Newport remains the only school in the Lincoln County School District that offers this sort of advanced program for high school students, and many of my classmates attended Newport High on variances, in order to receive that higher education. In my conversations with friends who took AP classes, it's become clear to me that the IB program provides as much, if not more, of a rigorous and academically challenging experience.

Statistics show that IB plays an instrumental role in students' education. In a study conducted by the Mid-Atlantic Association of IB World Schools, 97% of IB Program graduates said that the Program had helped prepare them for college, and 47% indicated that the IB experience was even more rigorous than university. Furthermore, 75% of respondents reported earning a GPA greater than or equal to 3.5 after four semesters of college. Clearly, the IB program has a considerable impact on students in their preparation for post-secondary education.

The IB Program was an instrumental part of my education, and I know that I am not alone in this. As a student attending a private institution, I am aware that this bill would not affect me, but many of my classmates who attend public universities such as Oregon State University have expressed that IB had already taught them everything they learned in the entry-level courses that they were required to take. If they had achieved the same score on an AP exam, this would not

have been an issue. It is only fair that the two programs are treated equally, especially when IB has been shown to have such successful results.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sophia Goodwin-Rice

Salem, OR