

Paul L Evans
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 20



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 20, 2019

Committee on Education
Oregon House of Representatives
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Ref: House Bill 2976

Dear Colleagues:

House Bill 2976 (HB 2976) is offered to protect our military members and families from the predatory practices involved with career centers that are inappropriately leveraging public funds – including the GI Bill – to cheat students. These diploma factories are often neither accredited, nor ethical in their reckless pursuit of profit. Too many military members have found out – too late – that their tuition was wasted; their certification or degree effectively worthless.

While I believe in the value of most professional career training and educational institutions, there are a few that wreck it for everyone. These institutions double-count resources, exploit eager young people seeking a jumpstarted career, and in many cases – go bankrupt – stranding their students, staff, and teachers without a safe harbor. These institutions should receive far more than denial of our funds: I believe all institutions that knowingly commit this fraud should be immediately shut down and their leadership put into leg-irons for breach of trust and theft of irreplaceable time. But that is not the purpose of today. Today we must take swift action to protect future potential targets of these schemers.

In closing, I ask for passage of this measure. It is a well-considered, innovative mechanism to thwart the actions of the predatory career schools that are ripping off our military families – and many others. Let us fix this now, before the upcoming deployment – and subsequent return – of 1,600 of our Oregon National Guard soldiers. This is good policy that will make a profound difference in the lives of military families throughout the State of Oregon.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul L. Evans".

Paul L. Evans