



April 8, 2019

House Committee on Education
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street. NE, Salem, OR 97301

RE: House Bill 2976

Dear Members of the House Committee on Education,

Please accept this as our written testimony in opposition of House Bill 2976. As a Private Career School operating in the state of Oregon since 1972, we feel that this will have a negative impact on our students and schools if enacted.

After reading the proposed Bill and watching Representative Smith Warner's introduction of the Bill and subsequent comments, we have a few concerns that we'd like to address since we were not in attendance at the Public Hearing held on March 20, 2019 to make public comment.

Many of Representative Smith Warner's claims that Private Career Schools see Veterans as "Dollar signs in uniform" and "Private Career Schools aggressively target Veterans and Service Members into enrolling in their schools, so they can make it look like they have a revenue stream outside of student loans" are not only inflammatory, they are grossly inaccurate for many of the Private Career Schools still operating in the state. Our assumption is that these comments are directed at the large corporate schools, such as ITT Technical Institute, that no longer operate in the state of Oregon, and we're certainly aware of many of their negligent practices. However, the Private Career Schools that still operate are in the sector of "trade" or "vocational" and are serving the public (including Service Members and Veterans) by teaching a skilled trade that will lead to licensing and an employable new career.

Speaking for our six (6) Northwest College campuses, in 2018, we had 418 active students, 10 of which were identified as Veterans and/or Service Members...we hardly think that a little over 4% of our student body could be construed as our school "aggressively targeting Veterans and Service Members".

Our school, as well as many others, receive no State Aid and now we have an Oregon Bill that is influenced by outsiders that will bring absolutely NO SAVINGS to Oregon.

Representative Smith Warner's claim that " Private Career Schools often have low graduation rates, higher rates of withdrawals and accreditation problems", according to the Chronicle of Higher Education, the most recent (2013) data on two-year public colleges in the state of Oregon graduation rate was **16.1%**. What about the outcomes of Public Universities, Community Colleges and other degree granting institutions?

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Our 2017 Institutional Outcomes are as follows: Graduation Rate: 56.58% ; Licensure Rate: 81.64% ; Placement Rate: 60.78%, these numbers more than debate the above-stated argument. Any nationally accredited Private Career School must maintain a graduation rate higher than 50%, or we are placed on low-outcome monitoring and subject to revocation of accreditation.

Private Career Schools are also active contributors to Oregon's 40-40-20 Education Goal. The 40-40-20 Goal established a clear target against which to gauge the state's educational progress; how can Oregon reach these goals if education becomes less accessible by a bill based on erroneous information?

Not only are we graduating students at a higher rate, we are adding more employees into the workforce in a field that is currently in need of licensed beauty professionals, a skill that most every person in the state of Oregon benefits from. As far as having "accreditation problems", all six of our colleges are currently, and have been since 1977, accredited by NACCAS, the National Accrediting Commission on Career Arts and Sciences.

The claim that "Students (from PCS) have problems transferring credits" is also inaccurate for cosmetology schools. Oregon Administrative Rule 715-045-0200, section 12 a) states: "Schools shall give full credit for hours earned within the last ten years" disproves this false claim.

In summary, House Bill 2976 is a misguided bill to the state of Oregon as it is directed to schools that are no longer operating here and will negatively impact those of us Private Career Schools that are operating ethically and well within the rules and laws imparted on us by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, and in our case, also the Oregon Health Licensing Office and the NACCAS.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our testimony,

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