

**Joint Committee on Student Success
Testimony, HB 3427, April 18, 2019
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Co-Chair Roblan, Co-Chair Smith Warner, Co-Vice Chair Knopp, Co-Vice Chair Smith and Members of the Committee,

I'm Betty Reynolds and serve on the Clackamas Community College board. I'm also a member of a local school board, Past President and current board member of Oregon School Boards Association, and OSBA representative to the Oregon Community Colleges Association. From these perspectives, I have a deep appreciation of education as a continuum. College and career readiness begins with the K-12 experience, and community colleges play a crucial role in that continuum as an accessible, affordable, equitable pathway to a career, or transfer option to universities.

At Clackamas Community College, we know from employers and our business partners that they have jobs available, and they need an educated workforce to fill those jobs. Well-paying jobs require education after high school. But Oregon tuition increases have placed student debt higher than it's ever been, and we frequently hear from community college students that they're at risk of dropping out because of costs. We cannot continue place the burden on students and saddle them with ever-increasing debt.

The Committee's hard work, support of public education and courage in revenue alternatives is greatly appreciated. However, the lack of investment in community colleges in the Committee's proposals is disturbing. Please support Governor Brown's call for new funding for Oregon Opportunity Grants, \$70 million for Community College CTE, and \$70 million for student support and student success so that all students can fulfill their dreams, Oregon's workforce needs are met, and Oregon's economy thrives.

Thank you.