



**Testimony on Senate Bill 17 A**  
Joint Committee on Student Success  
May 14, 2019

Co-Chairs Roblan and Smith Warner, Co-Vice Chairs Knopp and Smith, and members of the Committee. My name is Anthony Medina, and I am the Interim Director of Legislative and Policy Affairs for the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Senate Bill 17 A. SB 17 A is an agency bill that establishes a task force to study and report on the feasibility of implementing Electronic Transcripts (eTranscripts). The task force concept was developed as a collaboration between HECC, the Department of Education, and the Chief Education Office.

My colleague Dr. Erin Weeks-Earp will go into greater detail about what eTranscripts are and how they benefit students, school districts, and higher education institutions. The main goal of this bill is to determine the feasibility of eTranscripts for Oregon and conduct a cost-benefit analysis for developing a tool for student records that can facilitate district-to-district, high school-to-college, and college-to-college transitions.

Such a tool has the potential to create a more seamless system through smoother transitions, reduced loss of credits for students who do not have the money or know-how to aggregate all their credentials, and ultimately, simplify district and institution interactions.

The task force created by the bill would have equal K-12 and higher education representation and would be charged with determining if and how to implement the electronic transcript tool. Through their work, the task force must consider the following goals and elements, examining if and how eTranscripts can:

- Improve accelerated learning credit tracking
- Increase financial aid access
- Provide equitable access to advising, counseling, and college and career planning
- Protect student privacy, and
- Improve longitudinal research

The task force will convene, write a report, and provide recommendations that will be submitted to the legislature before December 1, 2019. Because of the ambitious timeline, HECC and ODE would begin work immediately.

Thank you for your time today.