

February 4, 2020

Senate Education Committee
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Senate Bill 1544 – Opposition

Chair Wagner and Members of the Committee,

My name is Leslie Komp and I am the Campus Administrative Assistant at Concorde Career College in Portland. Thank you for your time in reviewing my testimony.

On behalf of Concorde, I am testifying in opposition to Senate Bill 1544. I have been an employee of Concorde Career College for almost 20 years and I have seen many students come to our school, graduate and get meaningful jobs. Many of these students come from families where they are the first in their family to attend college.

If Senate Bill 1544 were to pass, I believe Concorde would not be able to stay open and we could no longer help these students become the first in their family to graduate from college. In addition, all of the employees of Concorde would no longer have jobs. I am a single parent with a daughter in high school and I cannot afford to not have a job. My daughter was born while I was an employee of Concorde and she has grown up being a part of my Concorde family. This would be taken away from her and me.

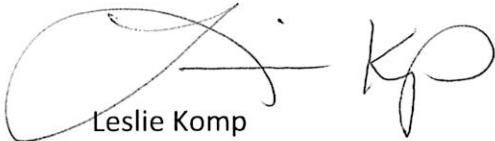
I went to a private college straight out of high school and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration. I am glad I received my degree right after high school but I wish I had known more about career schools so I could focus my education on a specific career instead of a general education in business. Through my years at Concorde I have seen what kind of job and pay our students receive and if I had graduated from a career school right after high school, I would probably be making a lot of money now after all of these years.

I greatly value my employment at Concorde because it is so rewarding watching our students grow and gain confidence in themselves. I see all of them on their first day of class and many of them are so nervous and some are probably not sure if they made the right decision. It is such an incredible feeling to hear them so excited about the job they were offered when they complete their training at Concorde—quite a difference from how they were on their first day. Our school is not just about the training for a specific skill, it is about nurturing our students and helping them become better people too. This is why I am still at Concorde after almost 20

years. I believe in the education we provide and am proud of the students who graduate from our school.

Again, I oppose SB 1544 as written. I believe what Concorde offers to the community is of great value and would have a very negative impact on many more people, not just me, if the school was no longer in business. Thank you again for listening to my concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'L' followed by 'KOMP'.

Leslie Komp
Campus Administrative Assistant
Concorde Career College-Portland, Oregon