PETER COURTNEY
President of the Senate

House Committee on Rules
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TESTIMONY BY SENATOR PETER COURTNEY
SB 1501
February 27, 2020

Chair Holvey, Vice-Chair Smith Warner, members of the House Committee on Rules, thank you for hearing my testimony today. My name is Peter Courtney. I am a State Senator. I live in NE Salem. I am here to testify in support of SB 1501.

SB 1501 permits students participating in intercollegiate sports to earn compensation for coaching and for use of name, image or likeness and to retain professional representation or athlete agent.

This bill is about fairness.

These student athletes give everything to their school and their sport. They create revenue for their school through sold out stadiums and increased enrollment. But these athletes don't get a dime of that money. They don't even get a percentage of the sales of jerseys with their own name on it. Not only that, but many aren't even able to coach in the summer for some extra pocket change. It's time that their contributions are recognized in a substantial way. This bill is long overdue.

Not only will this bill help Oregon student athletes, but it will send a message to the NCAA that they need to take action. California passed a similar law last year, and 26 other states are looking at this type of legislation. This is why SB 1501 won't take effect until 2023, so that the NCAA has time to make their own rules. But we have to be prepared in case the NCAA does not act.

No one works harder than a student athlete. They are incredible ambassadors for their universities and help these institutions beyond belief. It's time that they were treated fairly. This is a very good piece of legislation, and an important step in college athletics. Thank you for hearing my testimony today.