

May 19, 2021

TO: House Education Committee
RE: Support for SB 713-A3

Western Oregon University (WOU) supports the SB 713 with the -A3 amendments. As an access-focused university WOU fully support the lifelong value of a college degree. We also understand that a college degree is the most effective way for most people to improve their socio-economic status and their overall well-being.

WOU, like the other Oregon public universities, does not ask applicants about their criminal history during the admission process. However, we offer a number of degree programs that lead to professional licensure and that licensure process does take review criminal histories of the applicants for licenses. Examples include teacher education and criminal justice.

The A3 amendments allow WOU to maintain both its access priority while also preventing students from pursuing an expensive degree path that would lead to a blocked professional license. The A3 amendments result in a bill that clearly places the needs of the student first. Western Oregon University acknowledges Senator Dembrow for his leadership and willingness for input to ensure that this legislation gets it right.

WOU urges your support for the -A3 amendments to SB 713.

Sincerely,

David McDonald,
Associate Vice President for Public Affairs and Strategic Initiatives

