



**Testimony on Senate Bill 77**  
 Senate Education Committee  
 February 8, 2021

Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Thomsen, and members of the Committee. My name is Kyle Thomas and I am the Director of Legislative and Policy Affairs for the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 77.

Once a biennium, HECC introduces a bill to make minor and technical modifications to statutes pertaining to higher education and workforce issues. These changes have no fiscal impact, and no or highly limited substantive impact. The following table summarizes the changes:

<b>Section</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>1</b>	1	Deletes a reference to the Office of Community Colleges and Workforce Development. The office is no longer a standalone office, but is incorporated into HECC.
<b>2</b>	2	Deletes references to the Office of Community Colleges and Workforce Development.
<b>3</b>	3	<p>Renames the Oregon Volunteers Commission for Voluntary Action and Service to the OregonServes Commission. The Commission is only funded to administer the AmeriCorps, and this name is more in line with the current mission and authorities.</p> <p>Authorizes the commission to include members authorized by federal law.</p>
<b>4</b>	4	Aligns the OregonServes Commission membership statute with federal law.
<b>5</b>	4	Clarifies that the chair and vice chair of the OregonServes Commission must be voting members.
<b>6</b>	5	<p>Defines a quorum as a majority of voting members.</p> <p>Renames the Oregon Volunteers Commission for Voluntary Action and Service to the OregonServes Commission.</p>
<b>7</b>	5	Refines the mission and responsibilities of the OregonServes Commission to align them with the expectations and requirements of Commission funders, primarily the Corporation for National and Community Service.
<b>8</b>	7	Ensures the OregonServes Commission continuity of operations under federal law.
<b>9</b>	7	Renames the Oregon Volunteers Commission for Voluntary Action and Service to the OregonServes Commission.

<b>10</b>	7	<p>Renames the Oregon Volunteers Commission for Voluntary Action and Service to the OregonServes Commission.</p> <p>Replaces the term ‘citizens’ with ‘residents’ in language authorizing the commission to apply for grants to assist.</p>
<b>11</b>	7	Deletes references to the Office of Community Colleges and Workforce Development.
<b>12</b>	7	Makes a conforming change to account for the role of community colleges in issuing applied baccalaureate degrees.
<b>13</b>	8	Clarifies the responsibilities of HECC to implement the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.
<b>14</b>	8	Clarifies the grant making and contracting authority of HECC relative to the Oregon Youth Corps program.
<b>15</b>	9	Changes the delivery of the National Career Readiness Certification Program from December 1 to January 1 of each year. This allows data required by the report to be collected more easily.
<b>16</b>	10	Authorizes rules currently housed in ODE pertaining to standards for emergency medical services program to be transferred to HECC.
<b>17</b>	10	Repeals five statutes held over from the period OregonServes was housed in the Department of Housing and Community Services.

Thank you for your time today.