

April 1, 2021

To: Chair Alonso Leon and Members of the House Committee on Education  
From: Morgan Beltz, OBI  
RE: OBI Testimony in Support of HB 2989

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**Chair Alonso Leon and Members of the Committee:**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important issue for Oregon Business & Industry (OBI). OBI is Oregon's largest and most comprehensive business association representing approximately 1,600 businesses that employ more than 250,000 Oregonians.

Career and technical education (CTE) programs are a vital component to the education system in Oregon for career readiness and for our employers' talent pipeline. OBI has long advocated for increasing access and availability of CTE programs.

OBI is pleased to support HB 2989. It is the first step to ensure coordination between secondary and post-secondary CTE programs. This type of collaboration will ease access barriers for students and enhance their education. The bill also puts accountability measures in place for the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to continuously monitor the CTE education system and report annually to the Legislature. This is a necessary component that will allow constant improvements and updates to our CTE education programs as technology and employer needs change.

The passage of Measure 98 created the funding school districts needed to add new career and technical education programs and classes in high schools. HB 2989 is the next step in the process, coordinating those programs with post-secondary institutions. Students will now be able to start off their post-secondary CTE education with where their high school program left off.

We urge the committee to pass HB 2989 in order to create a more dynamic CTE system in our state. Thank you for your time and consideration.