



Emily Wanous

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Dear Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Thomsen, and members of the Senate Education Committee,

For the record, my name is Emily Wanous and I am the Legislative Director for the Oregon Student Association. I am here today in support of SB 233, which would establish a transfer council tasked with guiding the creation of the common course numbering system and continuing to work on strengthening the transfer system in Oregon.

According to the HECC report, approximately half of state public university students in Oregon have transferred from an Oregon community college each year. This work is urgent and necessary considering the number of students going through the transfer process every year who experience the myriad of issues when it comes to transferring their credits from one institution to another. Far too often, students are faced with the reality of retaking and repaying for courses they have already completed purely due to the lack of continuity between institutions. Transfer is often looked at on the campus level, which does little to increase the cohesion we need across institutions.

The work on transfer has been an ongoing conversation and we want to thank Senator Dembrow for prioritizing this issue this Session. The process to articulate and analyze how best to respond to the obstacles students face in their transfer experience is time consuming and difficult, so we appreciate it deeply. Right now, we believe the -1 amendments provide a little more clarity as to the roles and duties of the HECC, faculty, and other stakeholders, though I am sure we will continue working on this bill to better lay out the roles and responsibilities of the transfer council more clearly.

We recognize transfer has and continues to be an issue for many of our students. This bill would make the transfer work more intentional and guided for statewide success. A common course numbering system will not solve all issues in transfer, but it is a great step in making Oregon's transfer system more efficient and most importantly: easier on students.

For these reasons, I urge your yes vote on SB233. Thank you.