



Testimony on HB 2977
House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care
February 1, 2023

Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Goodwin and Nelson, 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 submit testimony on HB 2977. My comments pertain to Section 3 of the legislation.

The state has multiple models of deployment for initiatives that are designed to target areas of workforce demand, including not only the State Workforce and Talent Development Board (WTDB) mentioned in the bill, but also the Future Ready Oregon industry consortia model, and other agency specific efforts that exist in certain specialized areas.

While the model proposed here is through the WTDB and funding exclusively to local workforce boards, HECC appreciates the opportunity to consider whether funding for this workforce shortage area through other structures and including other community partners would benefit the goals of the legislation.

We've been in contact with Washington County, one of the advocates of this legislation, and we look forward to working with them and you on solidifying the best possible delivery model.

Thank you for your time today.