



TO: Representative Susan McLain

FROM: Kathleen B. Vincent, Ed.D,  
Interim Dean, Education Department  
Warner Pacific University  
President-elect, OACTE

DATE: February 24, 2023

RE: HB 2609

Dear Representative McLain,

Thank you for your leadership and your support of education in the State of Oregon. Having spent over 40 years as an educator, I believe in the transformative power of education. During my five years at Warner Pacific University, I have become involved in building programs and pathways to engage diverse groups of adult learners in the process of learning and becoming licensed professional educators. We have actively built partnerships with local districts, ESDs, and Portland Community College to engage their paraeducators and coaches in degree programs leading to licensure, while collaboratively offering as much financial support as we can. We are committed to their success.

It is because of these adult students that I am writing this letter to you in **support** of HB 2609. A large percentage of our students are first generation college students, and we serve a very ethnically, culturally, and linguistically diverse population. Most of our students juggle jobs, family life, and coaching commitments while participating in evening classes. We strive to reduce as many barriers to goal completion as we can.

Financial burdens prevent many potential students from seeking an education. They also weigh on small private IHEs. We have recently completed national accreditation with AAQEP, which required a fee of \$10,000.00. Our annual dues to AAQEP are \$2900.00. These costs are passed on to our students. They also pay fees to the university for texts, practicums, and clinical experiences, along with other out-of-pocket expenses for mandated testing. In good conscience, we cannot pass onto them the additional fees that TSPC would be charging our university, but we would be forced to do so. This creates yet another barrier that would be outside the locus of our control to remove. In the Financial Impact statement that I filed last year, I calculated that WPU would be charged \$7000.00 for the number of students/completers and programs that we now have. If we create more programs to answer the needs of the local school communities and attract more students, then we would have to pay a larger fee to the TSPC. This is unacceptable. We **support** HB2609 which would end the authority of the TSPC to collect these fees two years early. so that we may continue planning for the future.

Sincerely,

Kathleen B. Vincent, Ed.D