

Submitter: Jason Schaffer
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB572

My name is Jason Schaffer, I'm a junior at Portland State University's Career & Community Studies Certificate Program. I want to start off by thanking the committee for giving me the opportunity to come down here and testify.

Some of the barriers I faced before college were how to receive support such as how to sign up for classes, how to find employment, and how to get involved with the community on campus at PSU. So far during my years here at CCS, I have completed two years of the program, and I have identified a career interest in social work. I found successful employment at PSU's Office of Academic Innovation, and I have been employed there for a year. I have attended several different sporting events on campus, such as basketball games and football games.

If I hadn't been accepted to CCS or if I hadn't had the opportunity to be part of this outstanding program, I feel like I wouldn't have been able to pinpoint my career interest in the same way. I also would not have been able to find as many meaningful experiences as I have been able to find at CCS.

I think this bill is important because I believe anyone no matter what experience you have and what ability you have to learn should have the opportunity to go to college, because historically college has only been available for a certain minority. I believe this bill would give access to college to all minorities, especially the disabled community, if they are interested in going to college.

I encourage the committee to vote yes on this bill. Thank you for giving me this time to speak and thank you for the opportunity.