

Submitter: Julia Greenfield  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure: SB572

Chair Dembrow and Members of the Senate Committee On Education:

My name is Julia Greenfield. I am writing to register my strong support for SB 572. Thank you for holding hearings on this important bill.

I am the parent of an incredible young woman who experiences intellectual/developmental disability. My daughter Amelia is thrilled to be enrolled as a freshman at PSU through the Career and Community College Studies program.

Although Amelia has only been attending PSU for two terms, she has already experienced tremendous growth academically, vocationally, and socially. Amelia's exposure in her Freshman Inquiry class to critical thinking about current social issues has made her a more thoughtful and engaged citizen. Amelia voted (with great enthusiasm) for the first time this past election, and made clear connections between her coursework and issues on the ballot. Amelia has a part-time on-campus job at PSU's Helen Gordon childcare center. She is currently weighing her love of working with toddlers against her desire to explore other career opportunities during her college years. We are confident that with the supports she receives from CCS and partner agencies, Amelia will forge a satisfying and productive career path. Amelia has also enjoyed meeting and spending time outside of class with PSU classmates. She looks forward to living on campus next year to deepen her connections to other students and the college community.

Amelia has always loved school. She has an incredibly strong work ethic. Although Amelia knew that she would graduate from Grant High School with a modified diploma, it frankly never occurred to her that college might not be in her future. When it was time for Amelia to explore college options, she was startled to learn that there was only one college program in the entire state of Oregon to which she could apply: PSU. We knew that PSU's Career and Community Studies Program is able to serve only a fraction of the Oregon students with intellectual and developmental disabilities who have the desire and drive to attend college. In order to have a Plan B, Amelia also visited and applied to the Achieve Program at Highline Community College in Des Moines, Washington. We were very impressed by the Achieve program, and during our visit to Highline Community College we saw firsthand how students with intellectual and developmental disabilities can succeed and thrive in the community college environment.

Please support SB 572 so that Oregon students with intellectual and developmental

disability can have equal and meaningful access to a college education in both the community college and university environments. Supporting increased access to college education for Oregon students with disabilities is an investment in the future of Oregon.