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Hillsboro School District
3083 NE 49th Ave
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Dear Chair Dembrow and Members of the Senate Education Committee:

We are writing to you in support of **Senate Bill 572: Inclusive Postsecondary Education for Youth with Intellectual Disabilities.**

We want to thank Senator Gelser Blouin for sponsoring SB 572 and Representative Ruiz who is co-sponsor. The Senate Education Committee has an important opportunity to change the lives of many Oregon youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities by passing this bill.

Until 2016 when PSU developed the Career and Community Studies Program, we had young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities who did not have an opportunity to enroll in college, reach their full potential, earn competitive integrated employment, and experience inclusive social engagement and independent living.

When our students leave special education, they face many “no’s” from others who do not think it’s possible to attend a postsecondary program like PSU.

The CCS program is a game changer for our students because it provides the support needed for full inclusion in academic coursework at PSU. This support is provided in a variety of ways, including through academic coaching and an individualized learning plan that allows students to show what they know in classes.

The CCS program also helps students with career development and employment leading to a career pathway in an area of interest. THEY work while going to school and are receiving individualized career counseling to help them achieve employment goals.

This bill is a huge step towards something that would help others to lead fully productive and inclusive adult lives. [CCS has very high rates of post-program employment \(81% vs. 33% among similar aged peers with IDD\)](#) and this makes it a good economic investment for Oregon.

Senate Bill 572 will change lives by sustaining PSU's CCS program AND expanding inclusive college options at community colleges across Oregon.

We ask the Honorable Members of the Senate Education Committee to vote yes on Senate Bill 572.

Thank you for your time and service to the people of Oregon.

Sincerely



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Engage and challenge all learners to ensure academic excellence

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