



State of Oregon  
**Office of State Representative Ricki Ruiz**  
House District 50 Gresham & East Portland  
900 Court St, NE, Salem, Oregon 97301

Chair Dembrow, Vice Chair Weber, and Members of the Senate Committee on Education, for the record, my name is Ricki Ruiz, I serve as the Representative to House District 50, and a Chief Sponsor of Senate Bill 572 - the Inclusive Postsecondary Education for Youth with Disabilities and Career & Community Studies bill.

The Career & Community Studies Program (CCS) is a pre-baccalaureate, non-degree certificate program. According to PSU's website, this program offers an inclusive, four-year college experience for students with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. In addition to student services to which all PSU students have access, CCS students receive individualized support for academics, employment, and campus life.

CCS program is the only fully inclusive postsecondary educational opportunity for students with Intellectual Developmental Disabilities - referred to as IDD - in Oregon. Students with IDD who graduated from Career & Community Studies have transitioned into long-term integrated and competitive employment, reducing long-term state support for their well-being.

SB 572 supports the continuation of CCS at Portland State University and establishes a plan for the expansion of an individualized model of support within community colleges for students with IDD. Members of the Committee, over the interim legislative session, I served on the Joint Taskforce on Underrepresented Students. In one visit to Portland State University, I heard from students who were enrolled in the CCS program, who were receiving the support they needed as they worked on graduating and transitioning into long-term, integrated and competitive employment. In fact, 81% of CCS graduates are currently employed within their chosen career path as compared to 33% of transition-aged youth with IDD in Oregon. This means an overall reduction in long-term state support for their wellbeing

SB 572 supports equitable access to an inclusive college experience. SB 572 will continue to prepare youth with IDD for post-graduation pathways to employment that aligns with career goals and promote independent living and engagement within the community.

I urge your support for Senate Bill 572

**State Representative Ricki Ruiz**  
Oregon House of Representatives  
House District 50 (Gresham & East Portland)