

April 21, 2023

Dear Sen. Elizabeth Steiner and Rep. Tawna Sanchez of the Ways and Means Committee,

I am writing to request your support of Oregon House Bill 3120 in support of Oregon's investment in college access and success organizations like College Possible. As a counselor in the Milton-Freewater School District, I know the program has had a positive and measurable impact on our students. Programs like College Possible are crucial to ensuring that students across the entire state have equitable access to successfully earn a college degree.

The program provides our juniors and seniors with guidance through ACT, college applications, FAFSA, financial aid, scholarships, financial literacy and summer enrichment programs – creating more opportunities for our students to reach their full potential. However, what I love is the program does not stop with our high school students; College Possible provides coaching and support to all of their students through college degree completion. This is extremely important for our rural students who often have to travel far away from home to attend college and need additional support getting connected to their new communities.

Unlike most other college access programs that operate in rural communities, College Possible's AmeriCorps coaches work directly with our students, directly increasing the capacity and college knowledge in our schools. It is helpful to our school to have someone who is focused solely on college access and success. It is my hope that this will not only benefit the students in the program but create a college-going culture in our school.

I want to thank you for your previous investment in College Possible. This funding allowed College Possible to think bigger and invest in rural Oregon students. With the increased funding they can continue to support more students in underserved communities across the state.

I fully support our district's partnership with College Possible. I truly believe that Oregon's rural students deserve the same access to college access and success as their urban peers.

Sincerely,

Donald Jenkins