

We are members of the Multnomah Democrats' Criminal Justice Study Group, which supports sensible legislation to promote justice. We are testifying today in support of higher education opportunities for all eligible adults in custody. Of course it is a great advantage to prisoners to further their education, but it is also good for the communities to which they will return. An individual with higher education or training will be an asset to their community and unlikely to engage in criminal activity.

SB 269 will aid all AIC wanting to and qualified to obtain higher education-- a college degree, a college certification, a professional license or certification, or an apprenticeship. it is important for DOC to work with the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to develop policy on distance learning and to help those who want to apply for federal financial aid.

We also support **SB 270** to connect DOC with higher ed institutions and programs in order to create opportunities AICs, and **SB 1082** to establish a project that connects AICs and formerly incarcerated individuals with universities, community colleges and apprenticeships. All these bills can be important elements of "rehabilitation through education", which benefits everyone.

Sally Joughin
Anthony Fischer
Barbara Isaacson