

Submitter: Larry Williams
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: HB3563

Senator Dembrow and Esteemed Committee Members,

By way of context, I have been a public employee in workforce development for 26 years, but my opinions here are my own.

I first heard of 'career connected learning' within the past year and have been impressed by its potential to be a unifying concept between various state agencies for education and workforce to create a streamlined system with critical supports for diverse learners. I am concerned that as written, this bill tends to reduce 'career connected learning' to just a 'topic' on which the proposed Oregon Youth Works Advisory Board will advise the HECC without acknowledgement or collaboration with partners in the field. For a better approach, which should at least be referenced in the work of the new board, see the required report on career and technical education, which is a collaboration of HECC, Oregon Department of Education, and the Bureau of Labor and Industries:

https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/citizen_engagement/Reports/Collaboration%20on%20CTE%20Legislative%20Report%202022.pdf

In creating this new streamlined approach to youth within HECC, it would be wise to build on the existing collaboration across agencies.