

Submitter: Jane Reid
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB478

Good afternoon, Chair Frederick, Vice Chair Weber, and members of the committee. Time ran out at today's hearing on SB 478, so I am submitting this written testimony. My name is Jane Reid and I am a member of the Board of Education at Clackamas Community College in Oregon City. I have served on the Board for 17 years representing Estacada, Colton and Mollala. I currently hold the position of chair and last year I was president of the Oregon Community College Association.

I am here today to express my opposition to Senate Bill 478 in its current form, specifically regarding the proposed mandate to add a voting member to community college boards who does not go before the voters of their district. This bill does not respect the electoral process that empowers community college board members to represent their district, and it fails to acknowledge the existing structures that already ensure student input at the board level and on college governance councils.

At Clackamas, we have long prioritized student involvement and engagement. Student success is at the heart of every decision we make as a Board. We include students from the very beginning of board consideration of issues through surveys, work groups, task forces, committees and board reports – and not just at the decision point. They inform what we do at all levels so by the time something comes to the board, students have been part of the process.

I urge you to reject Senate Bill 478 in its current form. I am particularly dismayed that the 17 colleges were not consulted about this bill before it was submitted. As a longtime community college board member, I do not see any part of this bill as worthy of being enshrined in state law. It creates more problems than it could possibly solve and offers solutions to problems that do not exist.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and for your commitment to making thoughtful and well-informed decisions on behalf of Oregon's community colleges.