

February 11, 2023

## **SENATE BILL 478**

Chair Frederick, Vice Chair Weber, and members of the Senate Education Committee:

My name is Betty Carter, Treasure Valley Community College (TVCC) Board of Education member for 6 years.

I am here to express my opposition to Senate Bill 478 that seeks to take away local control from community colleges and impose top-down mandates that will undermine the effectiveness of governance at the local level.

The bill does not state whether the students must live in the taxing district. Those serving on the Board of Education must reside within those boundaries. There are no other elected governing body in Oregon who is mandated by the legislature to include a board member who is not accountable to the districts' voters as all elected board members are. Specifically, there is no requirement for the student to reside in the district.”

We at Treasure Valley Community College value all students' input; and there are platforms provided to ensure students have a voice in governance. An Associated student government representative is present at board meetings each month, providing a written report to the Board of Education.

At TVCC the ASG meets during lunchtime to gather student input. “Students also serve as voting members on all governance councils and committees where they actively contribute to decision-making at the college.”

Another change proposed by the bill would require community college boards to vote on each statewide or national association the college joins.

Other concerns include the mandate for an eight-member board, which could lead to challenges such as the inability to break tie votes...

## PROPOSED CHANGES BY THE BILL:

- A board can provide each member who is a voting member of the board with a stipend of up to \$500 per month (so long as they are not an employee) and can also reimburse members for expenses. Members can choose not to receive the stipend.
- Each board member must have an official institutional electronic mail address that is clearly and publicly posted on the college's website.

I respectfully urge the Committee to reject this bill and allow the local Governance to continue in the way that best serves the diverse needs of our community colleges and students they educate.

“Thank you and I will be happy to answer any questions.”