



Chair Hudson and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 3552. As an Educator with over 16 years of experience in Career & Technical Education, and as a current Professional Learning Coach supporting districts with diverse career learning needs, I strongly endorse this bill as an opportunity to expand equitable career connected learning and career & technical education for the State of Oregon.

Because of the current funding structure of Career & Technical Education, and lack of funding for Career Connected Learning, this legislation will be integral to providing students with equal opportunities for technical training and career related learning experiences that will prepare them for their future careers.

Northwest Regional Education Service District has been working for almost three years to expand Career & College Readiness Services to districts in Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook and Washington Counties. Through countless opportunities for feedback from High School Counselors, Career & Technical Educators, Superintendents, Workforce Development Partners, and Industry, we have identified the disparities in career and college readiness and technical training in our region. Depending on where a student attends school, their career preparation experience will vary widely.

HB 3552 aims to reduce those disparities and provide coordinated equitable opportunities for students. It is important to note that the legislation calls for collaboration between ESDs and component school districts, local workforce boards, community colleges, industry partners, as well as city and county government. Career & Technical Education Regional Coordinators are also an integral partner that should be named here. This work cannot be done without coordinated efforts, and Education Service Districts are well positioned to provide that regional coordination.

HB 3552 legislation notes that the services provided by ESDs must be based on an assessment and ESDs must demonstrate that funds support student pathways that lead to high wage, high demand jobs; work-based learning; high-quality career navigation; and appropriate to the region served. Northwest Regional Education Service District has attempted to do these things through county-wide regional support, but without dedicated funding, our work will be limited in capacity.

Our region looks forward to being able to add capacity for direct student services and expanded opportunities for student workforce development.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important legislation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jaimie Brady". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jaimie Brady, Professional Learning Coach  
Northwest Regional Education Service District