

Submitter: Mary Jackson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce
Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3446

Dear Chair Hudson, Vice Chair Harbick, Vice Chair Fragala, and Members of the House Higher Education Committee,

My name is Mary Jackson, and I serve as the CTE Grant Director at Clatsop Community College. I am writing to express my support for HB 3446. As outlined in the CTE State Plan for 2024-2027, Appendix J: Size, Scope, and Quality, a Career and Technical Education (CTE) Program of Study is defined as an educational opportunity that provides students with a minimum of three credits in a CTE area. These credit offerings must be structured sequentially, encompassing entry-level, intermediate, and advanced options.

The recommendations put forth in HB 3446 align the legal language of HB 3446 with the CTE State Plan, which envisions high-quality Program of Study opportunities. This legislation emphasizes the importance of programs that allow students to enter and remain engaged, thus maximizing their educational experience and skill development. Research indicates that the longer students remain involved in a CTE Program of Study, the more likely they are to be engaged in their education and improve graduation rates.

Industry-recognized credentials should not be the primary focus of a secondary Program of Study. Depending on their implementation, these credentials may encourage students to obtain certification without sustained involvement in the program, thereby compromising the quality of the educational opportunity. Additionally, emphasis on obtaining an IRC may also create inequity. IRC curriculum and testing can be an expensive process, so smaller and rural schools may not be able to provide this opportunity. Larger schools would have the greater chance to obtain the testing and curriculum and benefit from the funding for students who obtain the IRC and financial support for the IRC without going on to be 3 credit completers. In contrast, utilizing a three-credit completion model, coupled with industry-recognized credentials, and acknowledging the unique circumstances of students in special populations, aligns well with the high-quality Program of Study framework discussed in the CTE State Plan.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Mary Jackson

CTE Grant Director Clatsop Community College