



**Oregon State**  
**University**

**Oregon State Ecampus**  
Oregon State University  
4943 The Valley Library  
Corvallis, Oregon 97331

February 20, 2025

Representative Zach Hudson  
Chair, House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: House Bill 2686

Dear Representative Hudson, Representative Fragala, and Representative Harbick,

I am submitting written testimony in support of HB 2686, which would fund a grant for an organization to coordinate a statewide strategy to re-enroll Oregonians who have some college and no credential (SCNC). I currently serve as the Senior Director of Student Success for Oregon State University's Ecampus, under the Division of Educational Ventures. There are more than 810,000 Oregonians who have some college and no credential (Source: 2024 Report on stop-out data from 01/01/2021 – 07/31/2022), and we feel strongly that partnering with an organization who specializes in working to re-enroll stopped out students will benefit all Oregonians and all institutions of higher learning within the state.

As you may know, OSU is nationally recognized for offering high quality online degrees. We have been ranked by US News and World Report as a top 10 Online Bachelor's provider for 11 straight years, an accomplishment no other institution in the country can claim. We offer more than 50 bachelor's degrees, more than 40 certificates, and over 50 microcredentials online, spanning many disciplines. Through Ecampus, OSU serves thousands of SCNC students each year who are returning after some time away to complete their higher education and pursue career advancement. This is a population we know well and have served online for over 20 years.

Many of our Oregon residents who are SCNC are similar to a recent Ecampus graduate, [Joann Malumaleumu](#). Joann is an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and works for the tribe's education program as a wraparound service coordinator. First as a student pursuing a nursing degree in the early 2000's, she had to stop out to care for her ailing mother. She returned many years later to Blue Mountain Community College, then transferred to OSU Ecampus and eventually had to stop out a second time after the birth of her fourth child and her father becoming ill. In fall of 2022, upon learning about the Oregon Tribal Grant, she returned to OSU and graduated with her degree in Human Development and Family Sciences as part of the class of 2023. I share this with you because Joann's story is common, and these are the students OSU Ecampus passionately serves. There are several reasons for students to pause their enrollment – work, family, military service, health, or sometimes they find it's just not a good fit at that time. Some are like Joann and find a way to come back on their own – not without challenges – but we know that many are not comfortable approaching and navigating a return to school without support.

The support required to re-enroll SCNC students is extensive and must be holistic, considering the students past experiences, present obligations and obstacles, and their goals for the future. While OSU has a strong commitment to accessibility, efforts within Ecampus to do this type of re-engagement work on our own have proven difficult to scale and I suspect other institutions within the state have had similar experiences. Oregon needs a strategy to effectively and systematically re-engage the SCNC population in this holistic way.

ReUp is an organization that we have engaged with over the years. They have an excellent reputation for using data to identify students with some college and no credential, executing complex and tailored communications plans, and providing long-term wrap-around support until a student can re-enroll at their institution of choice. When this approach is done in collaboration with institutions, it not only provides a pathway for students to re-enroll but also allows institutions to focus on retention efforts in support of the students who return through this pipeline.

If this bill is passed, OSU is well positioned to engage in this work and interested in joining efforts on day one to collaboratively and intentionally provide a pathway to degree completion and career advancement for SCNC Oregonians. I urge you to support HB 2686.

Thank you so much for your time.

*Marleigh Perez*

Marleigh Perez, Ed.D.  
Senior Director of Student Success, Ecampus  
On behalf of OSU Division of Educational Ventures