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**Chair Senator Frederick, Vice-Chair Senator Weber, and Members of the Senate Committee on Education:**

My name is Mary Morningstar and I am a professor at Portland State University and Director of the Career and Community Studies Program. I am writing to you in support of **Senate Bill 979** that directs the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to conduct a study on ensuring postsecondary educational opportunities for individuals with disabilities by convening an advisory group for purposes of the study.

I want to thank the Senate Committee on Education for sponsoring SB 979 has the potential to change the lives of many Oregon youth with disabilities. I attended the meeting of the Joint Task Force on Student Success for Underrepresented Students in Higher Education (JTUSHE) when the members came to PSU. I was so impressed by the input from among PSU students and staff.

As director of the CCS, the only postsecondary education program in Oregon fully including students with intellectual disability at PSU, I would like to recommend that the perspectives and views of youth and young adults with IDD are not left off of this important advisory group. It would also be important to include a staff member from a postsecondary campus with experience working with students with IDD. The full range of inclusion and support for postsecondary students should be a strong motivation for the advisory group. Ensuring all voices are heard is essential.

Thank you for your time.

Mary E. Morningstar