

Dear Chair Frederick, Vice-Chair Weber, and Members of the Senate Committee on Education

My name is Ajay Pasumamula, I am a Senior in the Career and Community Studies Program at Portland State University. I graduated from Tualatin High School in 2019. I went to Portland Community College for a year as well. I started CCS in 2021.

CCS is fun. I love playing Kahoots with my CCS classmates in Seminar class. With advocates like the staff at CCS, they help me with homework, emails, and other things. I am going to have a big celebration in June with all my family, friends, and classmates when I graduate. It will represent the completion of my four year journey in this program where I have learned so much. I learned how to be independent like doing my classwork, living on my own in the dorms, and getting to class and work on time.

I work at the Portland State Rec Center as a fitness coordinator like one of my classmates. I like cleaning the machines and the equipment, and helping make sure students are using the equipment properly. I have worked there for four years, and I work six hours a week. CCS has helped me a lot with career development and finding jobs. When I graduate from CCS, I would like to continue to have a sports related job wherever life takes me.

I love playing and watching basketball with my friends and advisors. Earlier this year, I attended a Portland State Vikings Women's basketball game with my student advisors and my classmate to be more social on campus. I also participated in PSU's intramural basketball tournament. My

team won the championship, and I scored eight points! When I was on the sidelines, I was constantly cheering and yelling to support my teammates. I helped carry my teammates to victory. A classmate of mine and some staff from CCS even came to watch me play and celebrate my victory. Being social on campus and participating in these activities, helps me be confident and prepare me for my future.

The CCS program has changed my life, and I want other people like me to be able to have this opportunity. Please consider supporting Senate Bill 977, so accessible college programs can continue to be available in Oregon.

Thank you for your time!

Ajay Pasumamula

