

Submitter: Rachel Esteve
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB977

Rachel Esteve
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Senate District 21, House District 41

March 16, 2025

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

My name is Rachel Esteve. I am a graduate of the Career and Community Studies program at Portland State University. I am writing to you in support of Senate Bill 977 to create college programs for young adults with intellectual disabilities.

What I liked the most about my time at CCS were my classes. I studied art, family and society, race and social justice, and other interesting topics. Not just the education, but I also attended university parties, such as Midnight Breakfast, and outings with the Outdoor Program. I also became friends with one of my classmates, who is now my roommate.

I never thought I was going to college like my older sister. I jumped up and down when I got the letter saying I was selected for Think College. I also worked with CCS staff on my ILP – Individualized Learning Plan. That helped me focus and decide on a career.

I'm now working at a preschool. I have been there since 2022. I work with kids and babies, which I love doing. I earn money to pay for my apartment, clothes and food.

I think other people with disabilities should be able to have the same experience.

Sincerely,

Rachel Esteve