

Submitter: Fengxian Yuan  
On Behalf Of: Career and Community Studies  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB977

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

I'm Yuan Fengxian, and I am one of the 1st graduates that graduated from the Career and Community Studies Program at Portland State University on June 14, 2020 when a global health pandemic was going on. I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 977, which aims to create college programs for youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Oregon. Since graduating college I've joined a local self advocacy group in the Portland metro area called Self Advocates Taking Action. Outside of my advocacy work I'm on the Athlete Leadership Council for Special Olympics Oregon, that helps promote inclusion for all Special Olympics Oregon athletes that join. In February 2024 I got the opportunity to travel to Washington DC and advocate for more funding for Unified Champion Schools and Inclusive Health for young people who experience IDD/DD. A lot of people who experience intellectual disabilities and developmental disabilities don't get good access to affordable health care and it prevents them from getting the health care they need to live productive lives without barriers to accessing affordable and accessible healthcare. I'm currently living on my own in Sellwood with another CCS graduate. We both graduated in June of 2020. I enjoy living on my own in my own place. I still pay my rent each month and on top of that buy groceries for the week. When I look back on my experiences in the Career and Community Studies Program was a fulfilling experience and got to experience being a part of the 1st graduating class that graduated with pre baccalaureate Certificate of Career and Community Studies. When I was part of CCS I was involved in PSU Unified Sports, went to events on campus, went on trips with the outdoor program, attended cultural events on campus.

Sincerely,  
Yuan Fengxian