

Submitter: Donald Edwards

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce
Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3826

My name is Don Edwards, I have been an Admissions Recruiter for 30 years for 4 different Truck Driving Schools in the state of Oregon. I have assisted with enrolling thousands of students. The cost of the course is over \$5,000.00, so it is not cheap. Many folks cannot afford to pay out of pocket not to mention being unemployed for 4 weeks while attending our course. Well over 50% of the students that I have enrolled were funded by grants in one form or another. I am not too proud to point out that the WIOA Scholarships have been the main reason for steady enrollments over the last 30 years. When the scholarships or grants run out of funds our enrollment is greatly impacted.

I strongly believe that without grants and scholarships trade schools such as ours would not be sustainable. The interest and demand for obtaining a Commercial Drivers License is as strong as it has ever been. And lastly, Job Placement is unprecedented. It is a beautiful thing to see our graduates find employment with above average wages and in many cases completely change their lives.