



VANESSA CORNWALL

Intergovernmental Relations Officer
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DATE: March 24, 2025
TO: Senate Committee on Education
FROM: Vanessa Cornwall, Lane County Intergovernmental Relations Officer
RE: SB 231, Relating to State Financial Administration

Dear Chair Frederick, Vice-Chair Weber, and Members of the Committee:

Lane County writes in support of SB 231 which allocates funds to the Oregon Campus Disaster Resilience Consortium through the Institute for Resilience, Organizations, Communities, and Environments at the University of Oregon.

Oregon's colleges and universities face serious disaster risks, including pandemics, meningitis outbreaks, extreme weather, wildfires, and even campus violence, such as the tragic shooting at Umpqua Community College. These institutions are vital to our local, state, and national economies, and their resilience directly impacts the well-being of all Oregonians.

The Oregon Campus Disaster Resilience Consortium strengthens emergency preparedness, response, and recovery for all post-secondary institutions in the state. It builds on the University of Oregon's leadership of the national Disaster Resilient Universities (DRU) Network, which has been in place since 2005. This initiative connects Oregon's institutions to national resources, improving coordination and preparedness.

Despite its importance, campus emergency management often lacks dedicated funding. SB 231 is a critical investment in the safety and resilience of Oregon's higher education institutions. State and federal recommendations—including assessments from the National Center for Campus Public Safety and the DRU Network—underscore the urgent need for this initiative. The 2016 Oregon Campus Public Safety Workgroup, appointed by Governor Kate Brown, also highlighted the necessity of proactive measures.

Lane County had benefited directly from previous investments in emergency response during the COVID-19 pandemic. The University of Oregon was a key partner in delivering mass vaccination clinics in the Eugene-Springfield metro and in Florence. Additionally, these investments support ongoing lines of research that is already yielding "resilience tech" solutions to meet a growing market demand.

Lane County urges the passage of SB 231.

ELECTRONICALLY SUBMITTED BY VANESSA CORNWALL, LANE COUNTY
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS OFFICER



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