



PRESS RELEASE

OREGON HOUSE DEMOCRATS

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House Votes to Make College Credit Transfers Easier

House Bill 2998 will make higher education more affordable for Oregonians

SALEM – Students in Oregon’s higher education system will be able to more easily transfer college credits under legislation passed by the Oregon House of Representatives today.

[House Bill 2998](#) requires community colleges and public universities to develop a unified statewide transfer agreement based on foundational curricula for each major course of study, and it requires community colleges to provide specified information to students when they are attending the college when they inform the school that they intend to transfer to a public university.

The legislation represents a significant win for Oregon’s students after years of work on the issue. Rep. Jeff Reardon (D-Happy Valley), chair of the House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development, said the legislation will make our higher education system more efficient and affordable.

“It is not abnormal to find that classes taken at community colleges do not count towards your degree at university,” Rep. Reardon said. “63 percent of transfer students enter universities with fewer credits than they had earned at community colleges and 35 percent lose more than one term of coursework. That is a lot of money to spend on excess credits and is the opposite of affordable.”

The transferability of credit will help students who utilize the program to graduate on time.

Rep. Teresa Alonso Leon (D-Woodburn) and Rep. Mark Johnson (R-Hood River) were instrumental in negotiating the final legislation with the stakeholders.

“This bill was a long-time coming,” Rep. Alonso Leon said. “At a time when the costs to attend college are skyrocketing in Oregon and around the country, this sensible legislation will ensure that our students have an affordable option to complete their studies.”

Statistics show transfer students are more likely to be first-generation college students, members of historically underrepresented groups and financially constrained.

“In addition to creating cost-efficiencies for students, this legislation is about creating opportunity for future generations,” Rep. Alonso Leon added.

House Bill 2998, which passed unanimously, now goes to the Oregon Senate for consideration.

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