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NEWS RELEASE

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Key link between high school and college headed to House floor

Salem, OR - Students will have easier and earlier access to classes that count towards college if a bill headed to the House floor is approved and signed by the Governor. Senate Bill 1574A would help high school freshman and sophomores pursue college credits.

"Too many students don't see college as an option," said Senator Betsy Close (R-Albany/Corvallis) who sponsored the legislation. "My hope is this bill will help many college students realize that college is attainable for them, and help them save money and plan for their educational future while they are at it."

Research has shown that accelerated access to college credit is an important factor for both high school and college graduation. If adopted, Senate Bill 1574A would assist high school students who would like to earn college credit for qualifying high school courses. The bill charges the Accelerated Learning Committee with implementing this policy.

"Higher education is a critical part of the long-term health of our families and our state's economy," said Close. "Helping young people go to college and earn a degree will put them on a path for success and help build a strong foundation for our state's workforce."

Starting in 1999, Close served for six years as a State Representative in the Oregon House of Representatives. She was Chairwoman of the House Water & Environment Committee and House Business, Labor, and Consumer Affairs; and Co-Chair of the Joint Natural Resources Committee. She served in leadership as Assistant Majority Leader from 2001 to 2005. She was appointed to the Oregon State Senate in 2012.

Betsy Close has been married to Christopher Close for 40 years. They have four grown children.

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