



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, Governor

Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs

"Advocating Equality and Diversity"

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February 17, 2014

Chairs, Joint Ways and Means

Re: Support of HB 4116 being scheduled for a hearing and work session.

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Richard Devlin and Representative Peter Buckley:

The Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs (OCHA) is urging you to schedule a hearing and work session for HB 4116 which provides grants to Community Colleges for tuition support of underserved students.

There are over 452,000 Latinos in Oregon and many of the brightest Latino students will not be able to afford the tuition at four year universities. It is essential that HB 4116 receive a hearing in 2014 if we want to assure progress this year to ensure that our children can bring their talents into Oregon's higher education system. Community Colleges are often the only option for Latino and other underrepresented children. Creating tuition grants for these students ensures that our future workforce is representative of Oregon's rich diversity. We believe that this bill would create career pathways which make our communities and Oregon a more productive state in which to live and work.

We appreciate how tight the hearing schedule is for Joint Ways and Means and thank you for all that you can do to assure a hearing and work session for HB 4116..

Sincerely,

Alberto Moreno, Chair

Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs

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Alberto Moreno

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