



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, Governor

Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office
"Advocating Equality and Diversity"
1819 SW 5th Ave., Portland, OR 97201
O 503.302.9725/F 503.473.8519
Email: oaco.mail@state.or.us

February 20, 2014

Chairs, Joint Ways and Means

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

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

The Oregon Commissions on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OCAPIA) and on Black Affairs (OCBA) are urging you to schedule a hearing and work session for HB 4116A which provides grants to Community Colleges for grow participation of underserved students.

The OCAPIA and OCBA know from the collective experience of our commissioners and the people we serve that nothing in this life matters more than the opportunity to be educated. Establishing grant programs to community colleges to increase the number of underserved, first generation and low income students is one of the best investments the State of Oregon can make in its future.

Many who finish community colleges start or buy existing businesses, transfer to four year institutions of higher learning and become pillars in their communities. Students in community college who receive financial support tend to complete college at a higher rate than those students for whom money is a constant challenge. Supporting students in their drive to finish their CC degrees with counselling and financial support is the proven way to build thriving communities of color.

We support you in every effort to find time for a hearing and work session on this important bill in the 2014 session.

Sincerely,

Stephen Ying
Chair, Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

James I Manning Jr.
Chair, Oregon Commission on Black Affairs

OR Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

Stephen Ying, Chair
Mari Watanabe, Vice Chair
Legislative Liaisons:
Sen. Michael Dembrow
Rep. Gene Whisnant

OR Commission on Black Affairs

James I. Manning Jr., Chair
James Morris, Vice Chair
Legislative Liaisons:
Sen. Rod Monroe
Rep. Lew Frederick

OR Commission on Hispanic Affairs

Alberto Moreno, Chair
John Haroldson, Vice Chair
Legislative Liaisons:
Sen. Chip Shields
Rep. Jessica Vega Pederson

OR Commission for Women

Stephanie Vardavas, Chair
Jeanne Burch, Vice Chair
Legislative Liaisons:
Sen. Monnes Anderson
Rep. Betty Komp

Staff

Lucy Baker, Administrator
Nancy Kramer, Executive Assistant