

Dear members of the Senate Education Committee,

I'm writing to express my strong opposition to the amendment to Senate Bill 353, which will effectively allow school districts to opt out of the provisions in Measure 98 that were supported by a majority of Oregon voters in November.

My organization, Gateway to College National Network, is based in Portland yet supports dropout reengagement programs throughout the country. In 2016, we intentionally shifted a considerable amount of our resources to our home state in order to combat one of the lowest high school graduation rates in the nation. We know from our years of work around the country that the aspects in Measure 98 – career technical education, dropout prevention, and college prep classes – work to raise the achievement of students. And they work in concert with each other. Removing one of the provisions, as SB 353 proposes to do, can easily make the other aspects ineffective.

Over the course of the past year, Gateway to College has launched an initiative at our PCC program called Gateway to Career. We started this in response to many students being unprepared to enter a career trajectory as they transitioned out of dual enrollment into becoming full-time college students. We also launched Gateway to Career at the behest of corporate partners who have expressed concern about a growing skills gap. In their experience, this skills gap begins in high school. They strongly support additional career and technical education at the secondary level, which would prepare students to graduate high school with a clear pathway to a meaningful postsecondary credential. Dropping the requirement that funds be used to expand access to CTE strategies jeopardizes this preparation, and also has the clear potential to miss a clear opportunity to once again make education relevant for many students, keeping them in school through graduation.

Perhaps more to the point, this proposed amendment goes against the will of Oregon voters. I strongly urge members of the Senate Education Committee to support and fully fund all provisions of Measure 98 as written.

Best Regards,

Glenn Fee  
Associate Vice President  
Gateway to College National Network

**GLENN FEE** | Associate Vice President, External Relations | 971-634-1525

**GATEWAY TO COLLEGE NATIONAL NETWORK** | 529 SE Grand Ave. Suite 300 | Portland, OR. 97214 | [gatewaytocollege.org](http://gatewaytocollege.org)

