

Hello my name Joaquin Lippincott and I am the CEO of Metal Toad, a software company employing over 50 people in Portland Oregon. You heard earlier about the benefits of STEM education and how CTE can lead to amazing employment opportunities. I am here to reiterate that this is indeed true. Our company is growing at 30% annually and median income at Metal Toad is \$90,000 per year. I am proud that we are not only paying a significant amount into Oregon tax system via these many jobs, but our employee benefits include unlimited paid time off and health and dental care for employees and their families. This is pretty standard for our industry.

50% of web developers do not have a Computer Science degree, making this an incredible CTE opportunity. Unfortunately to-date 90% of my workforce has come from outside of Oregon. Kids in this state deserve a chance to get into tech and we are on the cusp of being able to do just that. This is why I am opposed to dash one Amendment to Senate Bill 353. By way of example, repealing the prohibition on backfilling to pay for existing programs is a huge step backward.

This bill important for me personally I am a huge believer in the power of public education and the father of two children, one of which is attending public high school here in Oregon. My mother was public school teacher for almost two decades and she supported our small family as a single parent so I am sensitive to the prior testimony of the teachers that spoke before me and I have huge respect for teaching as a profession. However the true winners and losers in our education system are not teachers, they are our state's many children. Public education exists to serve our children, and we owe those children better than 3rd worst in the country for high school graduation.

A number of the proponents today have spoke about giving districts unfettered discretion. Yet as you heard earlier, PPS systematically dismantled their CTE programs over the past decades. This was a district-level decision that we cannot afford to have happen again in PPS or in any other district in the state.

Oregon students are the future of this state and the question before you today is whether you want to invest in that future, or the past.

--

[Joaquin Lippincott](#) | President

[Metal Toad](#) | o: (503) 336-1658 | m: (619) 606-4447 | Portland, OR | *We Live by a Different Code*