



## **SB 800: Dual Credit Program in High Schools**

Letter of Support | February 27, 2019

To Chair Wagner, Vice-Chair Thomsen, and members of the Senate Committee on Education:

My name is Deja Preusser, and I am a Junior at Lincoln High School in Portland, Oregon. I am also a member of [Oregon Student Voice](#) (OSV), a student-led organization that empowers students to be authentic partners with K-12 decision makers. I am writing on behalf of OSV in support of Senate Bill 800. This bill updates the definition of “dual credit” and requires that public universities and community colleges work together with high schools to validate dual credit for students. This bill is extremely important as it implements a system for recognizing credits received from a dual credit program. Additionally, it holds public universities and community colleges accountable for giving students credits without having to fulfill additional requirements. In the following, I share how this bill would positively impact my peers and myself.

Post-secondary education is not something that is available to all students leaving high school. There are many obstacles that can prevent students from continuing their education, and failure to receive credit for a course they took in high school should not be one of them. We are encouraged to take college-level courses in high school to prepare ourselves for postsecondary opportunities and receive college credit in the process. While taking these courses are great experience for us, they also typically have a cost ranging from three to six hundred dollars to gain college credit. While this cost is still less than the cost of a college course at a four-year institution, it is still an extremely high price for us to pay, but we are encouraged to pay to gain college experience and save money in the future. However, we know that these courses do not always translate to college credit. Students may not take these courses because it is not a guarantee that they will transfer.

Senate Bill 800 ensures that the students will not be discouraged from taking college credit courses as they will have more of a guarantee that the credits will transfer to public colleges in Oregon. As a student attending a high school with courses that offer dual credit, it is important for me to know that the work that I do for these classes will be recognized by colleges and the cost will not be wasted. For me and many of my peers, it is essential financially to receive credit for a college course in high school because it is often significantly cheaper than taking a course in college, which makes the decision to go to college a little bit easier.

I, as well as the high school members of Oregon Student Voice, believe that Senate Bill 800 is an important step in improving the ability of high school students to earn college credits that actually apply to their earning a college degree. These reforms will improve the nature of the partnership between high schools and higher education facilities in addition to securing the success and recognition of students’ efforts in high school. We hope that the Senate Committee on Education approves Senate Bill 800.

Thank you for your consideration,

*Deja Preusser*  
Oregon Student Voice