



TINA KOTEK
GOVERNOR

March 25, 2026

The Honorable Tobias Read
Secretary of State
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: House Bill 4124

Dear Secretary Read,

Today, I am signing House Bill 4124 which directs the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to conduct a study of the condition of Oregon's post-secondary education system and to develop detailed recommendations for the "design, implementation and operation of a viable and superior institutional framework." I write to provide clarity on my expectations for the study.

Public higher education institutions across the country are navigating a challenging financial landscape marked by enrollment shifts, rising costs, and structural budget pressures. These are not isolated challenges and will require a collective commitment to finding solutions so that our storied institutions remain strong for future generations.

Public colleges and universities are deeply important to local and regional economies and to the broader communities they serve. They serve as economic engines, cultural anchors, and provide a pathway to opportunity for thousands of students and families. Colleges and universities support local businesses, sustain family-wage jobs, fuel innovation, and strengthen the workforce that extends throughout Oregon.

House Bill 4124 represents an important step for sustaining Oregon's post-secondary education system. It is my expectation that while conducting the study called for in the bill, the focus should be on the needs of the state, including both current and future workforce demands. This will help ensure that Oregonians, and those who want to come to Oregon for higher education, have access to the education and training needed for a successful future and that Oregon businesses have access to the talent required to thrive in our state. I look forward to recommendations that support student access, align with Oregon's economic and workforce development strengths, and improve the financial viability of post-secondary education across the state.

I thank Representative Marsh for her advocacy and support of Oregon's post-secondary education system and look forward to the upcoming study and recommendations.

Sincerely,

Governor Tina Kotek