



Chair Bryant, Vice-Chair Rives, Executive Director Cannon, and Members of the Commission, good afternoon and thank you for allowing me to speak to you all today. My name is Addie Howell. I am a Junior at Oregon State University studying Speech Communication with a minor in Spanish. Before I tell you my story, I want to let you know you have already heard part of my story in the letter the Willamette Promise Advisory Board sent you. In the letter, there was a student identified as Mary. Mary's story is my story. I attended a small high school in the town of Jefferson, Oregon. My high school had around three hundred students and did not have a lot of opportunity to earn college credits outside of our math program. My senior year, the Willamette Promise program was introduced to my high school and we had the opportunity to earn WR 121 and 122 credit along with other science credits. I knew I wanted to go to a University, so I immediately jumped on this opportunity. When I graduated from high school, I decided to attend Purdue University in Indiana. My Willamette Promise credits transferred with no issues. Because I had these first-year writing credits complete, I was able to enroll in an upper division communication class which put me ahead on my course work. After a semester at Purdue, I made the decision I wanted to be closer to my family and decided to transfer to Oregon State University. My biggest worry about transferring was how it would affect my credits. Upon transferring, all of the college credit I had earned up to this point transferred except for the first-year writing credits I had earned from Willamette Promise. I was not aware these credits did not transfer until I met with my academic advisor my second term at Oregon State. When I first met with my advisor and enrolled in classes, there was some sort of glitch in the system that allowed me to get around needing to have documented proof I had completed WR 121 and allowed me to enroll in WR 201, which in



addition to the two classes I had taken from Willamette Promise would complete my baccalaureate core writing requirements. Both the upper division communication class and Writing 201 had the prerequisite of WR 121, and in both instances because of the skills I had gained in the Willamette Promise courses, I completed each course with an A. It is extremely frustrating that as a Junior in College who has moved on to the upper division courses of my major, I am facing the possibility of having to retake freshman classes, especially when I have taken classes beyond these courses and excelled. By Oregon State not accepting these credits, it not only puts me back around 1,600 dollars in tuition fees, it would also make it so I would need to take an extra term at Oregon State. This would put me behind my goal graduation date, and force me to pay rent and extra school fees for an unplanned additional term. This decision also delays my career and graduate school plans. As someone whose has the goal of graduating college debt free and early, so I can be able to afford graduate school, this is extremely disheartening. I would like to say thank you once again to the commission for allowing me to testify this morning. As one of the hundreds of students affected by the decision you make here today, I look forward to your ruling on this matter. Thank you.