

June 15, 2006

06-117

RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO INITIATIVE
MEASURES 6 AND 14

PREPARED BY: Doreen Margolin, Vice Chair, Portland Community
College Board of Directors

REPORT: The Portland Community College Board of Education
opposes passage of Measure 6 (the so-called "TABOR
initiative) and Measure 14 (the "Federal Substitution"
initiative.) This position is based on the following analysis
and findings:

Analysis:

1. Measure 6 would impose a rigid and arbitrary constitutional limit on all State appropriations for public services equal to the percentage increase in state population and the rate of inflation rather than the actual need for state supported services such as education.
2. The Oregon State Legislative Fiscal Office has determined that if Measure 6 had been in effect since 1990 the affected portion of the State budget – which includes the General Fund and most of the rest of the "all funds" budget – would be 25.5% lower than the budget approved by the 2005 Legislature.
3. Colorado passed a similar measure under which it lived for thirteen years before suspending it at the polls. Under TABOR, Colorado dropped to 47th in its support for K-12 education funding and in-state tuition for higher education grew 21 percent over the past four years.
4. California confronted a TABOR-type initiative and defeated it
5. Measure 14 would have the immediate effect of reducing the state general fund by \$835 million in 2007-2009. Proportional cuts to education would

reduce K-12 education by \$357 million and \$111 million for universities and community colleges.

Findings:

1. State support for Community Colleges has eroded over the past six years. In the 01-03 biennium \$462 million was originally apportioned, in the 03-05 biennium \$410.7 million, and for 05-07 \$428 million. Either of the initiative measures under consideration would without doubt contribute to a further sharp decline in resources for community colleges.
2. Student Access to community colleges is dependent upon adequate course offerings. Reduction in state support would jeopardize Portland Community College's ability to meet student needs.
3. Tuition and fees have risen in response to tightened state resources. Passage of either of the two initiative measures could result in sharp increases to tuition and fees, thereby denying many students access to a higher education.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Portland Community College Board of Education urges all students and community members to become informed fully on both Initiative Measure 6 and Initiative Measure 14 and to consider carefully their negative consequences for students served by Portland Community College. **During the signature gathering process the College Board urges citizens not to sign petitions for these measures.**

This resolution was prepared and distributed with non-public money

Note: This resolution was brought to the Board by Director Margolin at the Board meeting