

**HB 2152****American Federation of Teachers-Oregon**

The American Federation of Teachers-Oregon represents 15,000 members across the state. Our members work in the private and public sectors in elementary and high schools, child care centers, community colleges and four-year colleges and institutions, and health care clinics and hospitals. AFT members work as classified employees, faculty, instructors, graduate teachers, early educators and in health care professions.

HB 2152 would require both the State Board of Higher Education and the Department of Community Colleges to report staffing to student ratios.

AFT-Oregon recognizes the diverse missions of post-secondary education, which differ in focus relevant to the individual institution: instruction, research, community service, workforce development, and developmental education. Certainly a major component of college and university is instruction and student services, and the focus on the 40/40/20 degree completion is part of this. We see many effects of students not being able to take or get into classes due to the lack of available courses, especially in these times of booming enrollment and continued disinvestment in our higher education system. To help improve our public universities and community colleges in Oregon we first need to know where they stand, and this includes knowing what their current staff to student ratios are. These figures will help us as we continue to improve the completion rates for many of our students.

Our full-time faculty, part-time faculty and classified members are on the front lines of education and see the everyday impact that our instructional and other staff has on students, and knowing what the staffing ratios are is a piece of the puzzle.

HB 2152 is the next step in reporting. Those who teach and support student services in our schools and colleges find that a transparent, collaborative process is a key to implementing changes in the education system, and HB 2152 takes the next step.