

AFT-Oregon Testimony in Support of HB 4058

The American Federation of Teachers-Oregon represents over 12,000 members across the state. Our members work in the private and public sectors in elementary and high schools, child care centers, and community colleges and four-year colleges.

The State of Oregon's 40/40/20 goals recognize the importance of completing an educational program to meet an individual's goals for life and career. As a part of these goals, AFT-Oregon believes that certified apprenticeship programs that meet requirements of the Standards of Apprenticeship from the Oregon State Apprenticeship and Training Division should be included as a part of middle 40 percent completion rates in 40/40/20. Union apprenticeships are rigorous programs of study which often take an equivalent amount of time as a post-secondary certificate to complete, involve many classroom hours, and require mathematics knowledge, mechanical ability, problem-solving skills, and the ability to work collaboratively with a team. This kind of applied learning, where apprentices attain skills and knowledge through a combination of instruction and hands-on learning, offers a solid career path and forms a vital part of Oregon's economy.

We urge you to support House Bill 4058 and include certified apprenticeship programs in 40/40/20.