



Mary Botkin & Associates

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Good Morning. I am Mary Botkin here today on behalf of Oregon AFSCME and the Community College Teachers who work inside Oregon's prisons providing adult education programs for Oregon's most dangerous clients who have been put under the custody of the Oregon Department of Corrections (ODOC). I am here to support HB 2807.

Until the mid 90's corrections educational staffs were employed by the Department of Corrections and were covered by an AFSCME Collective bargaining agreement. They received PERS Police and Fire benefits just as all other ODOC employees do who have regular and direct contact with inmates. Over our objections the Community Colleges convinced legislators that they could better provide these educational services under contract with the ODOC, with that change these teachers lost their P&F status as employees of Community Colleges. That is the simple history of where we are today.

Today these men and women work inside the prison system providing educational services to Oregon's inmates who have little in the way of formal education. They work in classrooms away from the constant surveillance of security officers and have little training on how to manage a disturbance or defend or protect themselves or other inmates.

Many of the inmates they work with are not functionally literate. Many are second language speakers and a large number have no ability to read or complete an employment application. Of course this assumes the inmate can even read job postings. It is the goal of the ODOC and these teachers to assure that inmates are functionally literate when they return to your communities. This is a critical part in realizing successful reentry programs and helps keep Oregon's recidivism rates low.

We represent a mere 8 of these community college instructors at Treasure Valley Community College in Ontario Oregon. These individuals work in Oregon's largest and most violent institution. There are others around the state working for other Community Colleges. We have been told by the ODOC that there are a total of 88 individuals that might qualify to be covered by this legislation.

We worked with Legislative counsel to try and define the instructors that will be covered to be very tight.

- First, the instructor must be an instructor with a minimum of a Bachelor's degree.
- Second, the instructor must work full time **exclusively** instructing inmates in the custody of the Department of Corrections.
- Third, they must work inside the **secure perimeter** of the institutions and have direct contact with inmates.
- Finally, this would not extend to a community college instructor who might have an individual in a classroom who is simply under the custody of the ODOC but outside of the institution. Work release; temp leave; parole or other community or extended custody status.

Every employee working inside our institutions are covered by PERS P&F with the exception of these community college instructors. That is just not fair. If these individuals were working with juvenile offenders sentenced to in any of Oregon's Juvenile Institutions they would be covered by PERS P&F but because they work with adult felons in the ODOC instead of OYA they are not. HB 2807 corrects this inequity.

From: Garcia Marie D, Oregon Department of Corrections

Sent: Monday, February 16, 2015 2:04 PM

To: Mary Botkin

Hi Mary,

Per your recent requests, attached is the technical report from the PSU study on the mental health of our staff, as well as an Issue Brief on our Staff Wellness initiative. You will also find the numbers related to DOC teaching staff provided below. The list only includes full-time community college staff working inside our institutions. The bill only addresses "faculty," we have noted which ones the community colleges consider faculty. We have also provided the descriptions of other positions just in case the information is helpful. Again, this is only full-time staff and does not include any part-time staff.

Blue Mountain Community College (EOCI, TRCI, PRCF)

13 – Faculty

9 – Support staff (non-faculty)

1 – Education director

Central Oregon Community College (DRCI)

1 – Faculty

1 – Work based education instructor

1 – Education director

Chemeketa Community College (OSP, OSCI, SCD)

4 – Faculty (including 1 that is for work based education)

4 – lab/tutor coordinators

1 – WBE lab coordinator

1 – Education coordinator

1 – Education director

Portland Community College (CCCF, CRCI)

2 – Faculty

3 – WBE instructors

2 – Support staff

3 – lab/tutor coordinators

1 – Education director

Southwest Oregon Community College (SCCI)

1 – Education director

** will possibly have a full-time WBE instructor

Treasure Valley Community College (SRCI, WCCF)

8 – Faculty

1 – GED/CASAS tester

3 – Support staff

3 – WBE staff

1 – Lab/tutor coordinator

1 – Education director