



# American Association of University Professors

*Academic Freedom for a Free Society*

House Committee on Higher Education, Innovation and Workforce Development  
House Bill 2611  
March 2, 2015  
Testimony of Dr. José Padín, President

Chair Read and members of the House Committee on Higher Education, Innovation and Workforce Development, my name is Dr. José Padín. I am the elected President of the Oregon Conference of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP). My work as elected President of the Oregon AAUP is volunteer service on behalf of our students and our universities. I am an Associate Professor of Sociology at Portland State University, and have been an educator in Oregon for 19 years.

On behalf of the Oregon Conference of the American Association of University Professors, our collective bargaining faculty chapters at the University of Oregon and Portland State University, and our faculty members across Oregon, I am here to strongly support HB 2611.

Our ability to reach the 40-40-20 benchmark means expanding access to higher education to underserved populations. I know that many legislators and state officials have been deeply engaged in thinking about how to support those students and make college affordable for them. Ending shared services now would undermine those efforts. Rural students are an underserved population and ending shared services would hurt them most. Shared services are most important for our universities at Eastern and Southern and their ability to keep the doors open might literally depend on continuing this pooling of resources.

When the legislature passed SB 270, legislators saw fit to require these shared services. This continues to be a sensible idea; the three shared services covered in the legislation are more cost-effective for tax payers when they are pooled.

Risk management, for example, is much more cost effective when spread over a larger risk pool. A regional university could be put in serious jeopardy with one jury decision if shared services are not continued.

As our system of public universities moves into a new era of greater institutional autonomy, we have a new federated structure. Our federation of higher education institutions will still need a center with the capacity to support that autonomy.

At AAUP-Oregon we are working with faculty across the state; our Executive Committee believes that continuing shared services is vitally important for our members, our students, and our institutions.

For further information, contact:

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