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To: House Committee on Higher Education, Innovation and Workforce Development
From: David Rives, President AFT-Oregon
Date: April 3, 2015
RE: Testimony in Support of HB 3049

Chair Read, Members of the Committee:

The American Federation of Teachers-Oregon represents over 14,000 members across the state in private and public sectors in elementary schools, high schools, colleges, and universities.

The members of AFT-Oregon work at universities throughout the state. We know the effect of limited budgets has been detrimental to the education and research missions of our higher education institutions. Our students and their families have had to shoulder more of the burden of the cost of higher education as state funding is reduced and costs are passed on in the form of increased tuition and fees. Senior administrative salaries have increased at Oregon's universities, while the growth in faculty positions has been mostly adjunct and contingent faculty. These contingent faculty have limited job stability, lower pay, and often no benefits. These working conditions and constraints on workloads and duties limit adjunct faculty from participation in the institution and limit their involvement in the success of their students.

Oregon should invest its valuable resources in positions that can educate, counsel, and guide students toward success in their personal lives, their careers, and their civic participation. If we are to meet the goals of 40/40/20, it will take this investment in faculty and staff who are involved in their university and the lives of their students.

Therefore, it is reasonable that the state should try to set reasonable standards for the amount of highly-paid administrators in our higher education institutions. Please support HB 3049.