



April 15, 2015

House Committee on Business and Labor

Chair Holvey ; Vice Chair Barton and members of the Committee:

SEIU Local 503 represents 4,500 classified support workers at the seven University Campuses and 55,000 members statewide who know that Higher Education and student success is of utmost importance for Oregon families. In addition we know that ensuring living wages and support for part time workers is integral to a just society and a vibrant economy.

We are writing in support of HB 3508 a bill that provides that unemployment insurance benefits during summer terms to community college instructors who has received assignments for previous summer terms.

In listening to the difficult stories on community college campuses of untenured and part time and/or adjunct professors we have come to realize that more help is indeed needed to keep our fellow community college employees out of poverty. Students and Oregon families are rightfully angry and depressed by skyrocketing tuition costs and family/personal debt. We support the need for more state resources and to focus every dollar towards student services and classroom success. In the meantime we also want to insure that classroom faculty are treated - as many other workers with seasonal schedules – with appropriate assistance with unemployment insurance eligibility. We ask that you help pass this legislation that will provide a pathway to that end.

Sincerely,

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