

Chair Roblan, members of the committee,

My name is Dan Hall; I am a part time adjunct sociology instructor at Columbia Gorge Community College (CGCC).

In 2009, Money magazine provided their take on 50 of the best jobs in America. Ranked No. 3 the college professor was on the list. They spouted median salaries of around \$70,000. They also reported that job satisfaction, flexibility, and contribution to society were very high. I remember reading articles like the one from Money in graduate school and feeling excited to enter the field of academia with a hope that I would have financial and health care security.

Some 12 years ago, I started a journey to one day fulfill my dream of teaching sociology. Nearly 2 years ago that dream was realized at CGCC. It took applying for positions across the nation, selling a house, paying thousands of dollars in moving expenses, and leaving family and friends to do it, but none of the less it became a reality.

Though I would not trade my career and passion of teaching for the world, it is important to note inaccuracies of the promised career that Money magazine and other sources led it to be. I came to realize that the reality of instructors in today's world mirror reality for many Americans. Many today have seen good paying and benefit providing jobs go to the wayside in favor of part time jobs that cut costs and increase profit maximization, and the academic sector is no different. As corporate CEOs live lavishly and financially secure, their part time employees struggle to get by, this mirrors part time academic faculty and their relation to the presidents and higher ups of their colleges. Today at least 70% of all faculty members nationwide are part-time or adjunct faculty. Seventy percent of the nation's instructors of higher education cannot find the security of full time jobs that offer them the health care benefits and pay in order to make it in our society. This is a staggering amount and should be questioned when we think about a strong infrastructure for our higher educational institutions

Currently, I have health care benefits through my wife. However, the premium to add me to her plan is substantially more than if she only received insurance for herself through her employer. Furthermore, this has not always been the case, since moving to Oregon we have had instances of not having health insurance. This provided large amounts of stress and anxiety to us both. As well as detoured us from experiencing the beauty that is Oregon's outdoors in order to increase health risk aversion. Recently, I have and am continuing to search for multiple teaching positions at other local community colleges to offset this cost. If I was able to find another position and SB 702 passed, not only would I be able to receive financial relief, it would also provide a more affordable option to cover myself, in turn further helping my family.

Presently, I find myself lucky. Many of my peers are stuck trying to further develop our students and help society all while living in fear. Fear of if something medically happens to them, they will either go bankrupt, or be turned away from medical institutions because of lack of adequate health care coverage, possibly resulting in disability or worse. By passing SB 702, it will be a step in the right direction for Oregon to rebuild and properly protect not only higher education, but also the citizens that make up its infrastructure.