

To: Senate Committee on Education  
Date: April 15, 2015  
Re: SB 702

Chair Roblan, members of the committee,

My name is Motoya Nakamura of Portland, OR. I have two children (11 and 14). I have been teaching at both Portland Community College and occasionally at Portland State University since I lost my job as a full-time staff photographer at The Oregonian in September 2013 due to layoffs. During the academic year of 2013-2014, I taught 6 classes for PCC and two classes for PSU. I would've been eligible for healthcare if the combined total FTE number of the 8 classes I taught at both institutions had been counted for the healthcare benefit. I was not able to be eligible for healthcare benefits due to the fact I worked for two separate institutions.

During this academic year of 2014-2015, I was fortunately able to teach enough classes to be eligible for the healthcare benefit. However, I wouldn't have been eligible if I had lost one or two classes. How many classes I am able to teach depends heavily on enrollment, which fluctuates. I could lose a class (or two) a couple of weeks before the term starts. Considering higher education institutions use significantly more adjunct faculty than the past, it would be great for adjunct faculty to be able to feel more secure about their future.

I know many adjunct faculty are in the same boat as me, patching classes from different institutions together in order to make living and take care of their family. SB 702 and this amendment will give adjunct faculty more -- and much needed -- security.