



To: Senate Education Committee
Date: April 16, 2015
RE: Support for SB 702, faculty health care parity

The Oregon Education Association, on behalf of 42,000 professional educators including 3,500 full and part time community college faculty strongly supports SB 702.

Institutions of higher education increasingly rely on part time instructors. Despite their high level of training and expertise, many faculty struggle to compile full-time work and a stable income, much less health care and retirement benefits. Even though many of these faculty do in fact work full time by taking several assignments at multiple colleges, they lack access to health care and other benefits.

SB 702 is a common-sense solution to this problem. SB 702 would allow faculty hours to be considered in the aggregate across institutions. Faculty members who worked half time at two institutions, or half time at one institution and quarter time at two other colleges, would thus be allowed to combine their total hours in order to receive health benefits.

The Oregon Education Association believes now is the time to take this important step forward to provide some stability and security for faculty as we adjust to the increasing “adjunct-ification” of higher education.

Please support SB 702 to establish parity for part time faculty and allow them to access proper health care benefits.