



ASSOCIATION OF OREGON FACULTIES

April 16, 2015

To: Senate Committee on Education
Re: SB 702 and -1 amendment – Support

Chair Roblan, Vice-Chair Knopp, and members of the committee,

The Association of Oregon Faculties (AOF) is an independent, non-union based organization representing faculty from Oregon's seven public universities. AOF seeks to protect and improve the working environment and fair compensation for Oregon university faculty and to help ensure that the Oregon University System gets adequate funding in the state appropriations process.

Increasingly, more and more courses in Oregon's higher educational system are being taught by part-time faculty as the state's universities respond to years of underfunding in their constant need to continue serving our students. As a result, part-time faculty often teach at several institutions during the same term, working many hours a day in jobs with almost no benefits. Senate Bill 702 promises to help these hardworking faculty members by allowing them to aggregate their hours at various institutions in order to be eligible for health care coverage. While the resulting benefits may not end up being as full and complete as those of full-time faculty, they would help to insure that part-time faculty are not forced to choose between purchasing health care and supporting the very basic needs of their families. Naturally, AOF will continue its efforts to encourage the universities to hire some of these people as full-time employees, but until that happy day arrives, efforts like SB 702 are vital to helping these faculty members serve our students in the best way possible.

We encourage you to pass this bill quickly, and we thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Bakalinsky". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Alan Bakalinsky, President,
On behalf of the Board,
Association of Oregon Faculties