

Dear Senator Roblan and Members of the Senate Education Committee:

My name is Lauren L. Zavrel and I am an adjunct faculty member at Clackamas Community College where I also serve as president of the Part Time Faculty Association.

I write in support of SB 702.

Oregon community colleges increasingly rely on part time faculty members to maintain course offerings for their students. This in turn requires many of my fellow part time faculty to travel between colleges or second and third jobs off campus to piece together the equivalent of a full time or near full time job. I am no exception; while teaching for Clackamas is my primary focus, I also work for a nonprofit, teach motorcycle safety through Team Oregon in the summers, manage my role as President, and currently have two contracted positions with the OEA in order to scrape together the equivalent of a full time schedule.

I can tell you from experience that this is hard on faculty and hard on their families. The uncertainty and sporadic nature of work assignments for part-timers make long-term planning difficult and sometimes impossible, particularly financially. Despite all of my work assignments, for example, I qualify for WIC while I am pregnant because I fall into their criteria as "low income," but don't qualify for OHP or health insurance through (any of) my employers.

SB 702 is a long overdue remedy for public servants who have been senselessly cut out of receiving a basic workplace right simply because they split their time between multiple institutions.

This bill still requires faculty to pay a portion of their health care, and an even larger percentage of their family's health care, but it will offer them some much needed security.

It is important to remember that while part-time faculty may only be part-time on paper, they bring a full time commitment to their students and institutions. Please pass SB 702 and help part time faculty and their families receive the health care benefits they need and deserve.