



# American Association of University Professors

*Academic Freedom for a Free Society*

Senate Committee on Education  
House Bill 2611  
May 19, 2015

Dear Chair Roblan and Committee members,

On behalf of the Oregon Conference of the American Association of University Professors, our collective bargaining faculty chapters at the University of Oregon and Portland State University, and our faculty members across Oregon, I write to strongly support HB 2611.

Our ability to reach the 40-40-20 benchmark means expanding access to higher education to underserved populations. I know that many legislators and state officials have been deeply engaged in thinking about how to support those students and make college affordable for them. Ending shared services now would undermine those efforts. Rural students are an underserved population and ending shared services would hurt them most. Shared services are most important for our universities at Eastern and Southern and their ability to keep the doors open might literally depend on continuing this pooling of resources.

When the legislature passed SB 270, legislators saw fit to require these shared services. This continues to be a sensible idea; the shared services covered in the legislation are more cost-effective for taxpayers when they are pooled. While one university might be able to reduce costs in a single geographic area, overall taxpayers would lose the economies of scale if these benefit

pools were to be broken up.

The other shared service covered in this bill is collective bargaining. SEIU members are an integral part of the team at all of our universities and they have one bargaining unit, made up of workers at all seven campuses. This bill guarantees that SEIU negotiations will, for the next four years, continue to be handled at one bargaining table. We believe this is the most cost-effective way for our employers to work with our SEIU colleagues.

As our system of public universities moves into a new era of greater institutional autonomy, we have a new federated structure. Our federation of higher education institutions will still need a center with the capacity to support that autonomy.

At AAUP-Oregon we are working with faculty across the state; our Executive Committee believes that continuing shared services is vitally important for our members, our students, and our institutions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "José Padín".

José Padín, President  
AAUP-Oregon  
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