



American Association of University Professors

Academic Freedom for a Free Society

February 24, 2016

Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward and Representative Greg Smith, Co-Chairs
Members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee SubCommittee on General Government
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Senate Bill 1586-A

Dear Co-Chairs and members of the Ways and Means SubCommittee on General Government,

On behalf of the more than 3000 members 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 am writing to support Senate Bill 1586-A.

As faculty, our members work closely with students and address many issues together, campus by campus and across the state. This bill would create more opportunities for student governments to reach out and engage students in the political process. It encourages voter registration through classroom visits and residence hall programs, links on university websites, and tabling in public spaces.

We believe that reaching out to students to encourage political engagement is critical for the continued functioning of our democracy and should be supported. Too many students are disconnected from and discouraged by the political process. This program can help turn that around and we respectfully ask you to please support SB 1586-A.

Thank you for considering this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Erna Gelles', is written over a horizontal dashed line.

Erna Gelles, Vice President for Political Action
AAUP-Oregon
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