



American Association of University Professors

Academic Freedom for a Free Society

March 2, 2017

Representative Jeff Reardon, Chair
Members of the House Committee
on Higher Education and Workforce Development
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support of House bill 2864 and the -2 amendments – Cultural Competency

Chair Reardon and members of the Committee,

My name is José Padín. I am a professor at Portland State University, where I've taught for 20 years. I am president of the Oregon State Conference of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP-Oregon). Thank you for your service to our state, and thank you for the opportunity to communicate with you.

On behalf of the more than 3400 members of the American Association of University Professors in Oregon, our collective bargaining faculty chapters at the University of Oregon and Portland State University, and our faculty members across Oregon, I am here to ask that you *please support HB 2864*.

As faculty members we teach a wide variety of students and work every day to make our classrooms welcoming places for those from every background. We understand the structural inequities and challenges that many of our students face. This bill commits our universities as institutions to include every stakeholder group on our campuses in a conversation about how to deepen this work, and then set goals and report progress. In coming to our decision to support the bill, we engaged in many deep conversations about the importance of this work and we are pleased this bill strikes a good balance that furthers inclusion while preserving academic freedom and the crucial role of faculty in shared governance.

As Oregon faculty, we are committed to all of our students and to the goal of moving the work of justice forward.

We ask that you please support this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jose Padin'.

José Padín, Ph.D.
President
AAUP-Oregon