



American Association of University Professors

Academic Freedom for a Free Society

March 6, 2017

Senator Kathleen Taylor, Chair
Senate Committee on Workforce
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support of Senate Bill 214 with the -1 amendments

Chair Taylor, Vice-Chair Knopp, 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 SB 214 with the -1 amendments.

Post-doctoral scholars, although small in numbers, are a very unique component of the research at Oregon public universities. These are also individuals at the beginning stages of their careers, and the position of post-doctoral scholar determines their lifetime prospects.

The -1 amendment proposed to SB 214 strikes a careful balance that will make our public universities more competitive for research funding, while at the same time it will ensure that the interests of early-career researchers in post-doctoral scholar positions are protected, specifically, as regards Oregon public universities' commitment to their professional development, and contributions towards retirement benefits. The -1 amendment is, moreover, an outstanding example of what we can accomplish in Oregon when universities, the union and professional associations representing Oregon faculty, collaborate closely.

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