

April 3, 2017

Chair Taylor and Member of the Senate Committee on Workforce,

On behalf of the American Federation of Teachers-Oregon, I respectfully request your support for Senate Bill 828. SB 828 will provide stability to workers – especially those enrolled in higher education. AFT-Oregon represents approximately 15,000 Oregon workers in community college and universities in faculty, graduate employee, and classified positions, K-12 classified positions, and child care workers. The majority of our members work in public higher education, where they interact with busy students every day. Our members see firsthand the impact of unpredictable scheduling on a student's life. That's why they support SB 828.

Oregon needs SB 828, because workers in Oregon can't live their lives on a few days or hours notice. Among early career hourly workers, 50% have no input in their work schedules and 41% receive their schedules with a week or less of notice. Among workers of color, that number is even higher. These workers do the important jobs that keep our economy running and keep our lives on track. They deserve stability and predictability in order to plan and budget for their own lives, families, and communities. Stable scheduling is also crucial to allow students to plan their education.

SB 828 would establish scheduling standards for hourly workers at large retail, food service, and hospitality establishments. The bill preserves the flexibility that employers and employees need in order to adequately plan work schedules.

SB 828 will also help Oregon continue to achieve student success and quality outcomes for statewide educational goals like 40-40-20. Additionally, it will help increase Oregon's economic competitiveness by giving hourly workers a chance to increase their skills and training and pursue the next step in their career. An unpredictable schedule makes it more difficult to attend all of the necessary classes and ensure you have enough time to complete coursework.

When a student enrolled in higher education has flexibility and stability to plan and schedule their hourly work, they can plan around class schedules and homework. A student who is better prepared for class is more likely to achieve desired educational outcomes. Better educational outcomes help prepare Oregon's next generation of workers for in-demand jobs. SB 828 will help Oregon's students, education system, and economy.

No one can live their lives on a few hours notice. We urge your support for SB 828.

Sincerely,



Marcus Swift
Director of Political and Legislative Affairs
AFT-Oregon