

April 5, 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 1040. 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. Although our members primarily work in the public sector, we stand united against any attacks that undermine the critical need for workers to be able to collectively bargain for workplace standards.

For decades, so-called “right to work” laws have demonstrated negative impacts on many different aspects of our workforce. From lowering wages and median household income, to raising infant mortality rates and lowering education funding, these laws are dangerous to working people.

SB 1040 presents an opportunity to take an important step to ensure workers and employers can maintain consistency on the state level as it relates to union security agreements. Passing SB 1040 will revert to the status quo of how private sector labor relations have been legislated since 1935. This bill will only impact private sector unions and labor relations governed by the NLRA and is only about union security agreements.

For the last three years, those that would seek to undermine the ability for workers to stand together collectively and bargain with their employer for workplace standards have been active in Oregon. We urge you to support SB 1040 to protect rural Oregon workers from deceptive anti-union attacks

Sincerely,



Marcus Swift
Director of Political and Legislative Affairs
AFT-Oregon