



# American Association of University Professors

*Academic Freedom for a Free Society*

April 12, 2017

Representative Paul Holvey, Chair  
House Committee on Business and Labor  
Oregon State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

## **Re: Support of House bill 3170**

Chair Holvey 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 submit my comments today.

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 3170*.

Oregon's public universities are well known for their research, produced by their outstanding research faculty. These dedicated faculty provide a great benefit to Oregon's public universities: opportunities for the students attending our universities and much needed funds to the universities through research grants.

Many of these research faculty have the same responsibilities as their colleagues. Unfortunately, many of them currently lack the same right to collectively bargain the terms of their employment that the rest of faculty have, and thus, have little or no say in their wages, benefits, and working conditions. This also results in less protection for their academic freedom and intellectual property rights in their research and teaching.

HB 3170 seeks to address this inequity and protect the academic freedom of research faculty by allowing teaching and research faculty at public universities access to collective bargaining rights, *if they so choose*, giving them a full voice in their workplace.

The hard working and dedicated faculty that perform Oregon's globally recognized, leading edge research, which helps support our public universities, deserve the chance to have a stronger voice in their workplace that collectively helps direct the research priorities at their universities while protecting academic freedom. HB 3170 will help accomplish this goal.

We ask that you please support HB 3170.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "José Padín". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

José Padín, Ph.D.  
President  
AAUP-Oregon