



ASSOCIATION OF OREGON FACULTIES

April 12, 2017

To: House Committee on Business and Labor

Re: HB 3170 – Strong Support

Chair Holey, Vice-Chair Bynum, Vice-Chair Barreto, and members of the committee,

The Association of Oregon Faculties (AOF) is an independent, non-union based organization representing faculty from Oregon's seven public universities. AOF seeks to protect and improve the working environment and fair compensation for Oregon university faculty and to help ensure that the Oregon University System gets adequate funding in the state appropriations process.

Research faculty at public universities conduct research, raise significant amounts of revenue through external research grants, teach, and provide immense benefit to their institutions, and to the public at large. Yet, currently, many of those faculty members lack the right to bargain collectively over the terms of their employment with the university because they possess a limited amount of supervisory authority. That means they have no say in their wages, benefits, and working conditions on the job. They also lack protections for academic freedom, which can subject their research work to the whims of national politics and changes in federal funding priorities.

HB 3170 seeks to amend the definition of supervisor in Oregon's Public Employee Collective Bargaining Act (PECBA), only as it pertains to public universities (this does not include community colleges) and only as it pertains to faculty who have an academic – not administrative – focus. PECBA already grants collective bargaining rights to some workers with supervisory authority, including nurses and fire fighters.

The top minds in Oregon – many of whom perform cutting edge research and innovation on the global stage - deserve a chance to work collaboratively to shape the direction and priorities of their universities, and if necessary to protect the research our society, and our state, both need. AOF hopes that all members of the committee will support this bill."

We encourage you to pass this very important bill, please vote yes on HB 3170.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature consisting of a series of connected, wavy lines, resembling a stylized 'A' or a similar character.

Alan Bakalinsky, President,
On behalf of the Board,
Association of Oregon Faculties

Association of Oregon Faculties, 740 Oakway Circle, Ashland, OR 97520

<http://oregonfaculties.org>