

April 12, 2017

Chair Holvey and Members of the House Committee on Business and Labor:

Thank you for accepting my testimony in favor of House Bill 3170. My name is Michael Dreiling. I am a Professor of Sociology at the University of Oregon and serve as President of United Academics AAUP/AFT 3209. At the University of Oregon, most of my faculty colleagues appreciate the opportunity to exercise their right to engage in collective bargaining, solving problems at the UO that only recently seemed intractable setbacks for 21<sup>st</sup> century American public universities. I am proud of what we, as faculty working with the UO administration, have accomplished, making the UO more responsive to our students and our higher education mission.

Over the last several years, I've heard disappointment from my colleagues who do not enjoy the same grievance protections, the same representation when handling sick leaves, or the same opportunity to sit at the table and negotiate solutions to problems unique to their working environment as researchers and principal investigators – all because they have minor supervisory roles over other faculty. Some of my colleagues whose research pushes against unscientific partisan ideas also face worries that they will stand alone, without a unified voice of other researchers and scientists behind them. These are not unfounded worries as researchers at the UO have recently been posted on public “watchlists”, received harassing emails and editorials, and called out on talk radio. Threats to scientific investigation are not new, but they have certainly been compounded recently. The right to collectively bargain provides not only legal protections but a unified voice committed to academic freedom and scientific discovery to defend researchers' findings. House Bill 3170 would give all faculty enforceable legal protection to defend academic freedom and protect their own research programs.

Many of the top scientists in Oregon perform cutting edge research and innovation at our public universities. Their research is a valuable commodity for Oregon, the nation, and the world, often setting the foundation for new ideas and new industries that offer solutions to challenges with the environment, energy, climate, and human health. The impact of some of this research is global and these professionals deserve a chance to work collaboratively to help guide the direction and priorities of the university that they devote their life's work to. HB 3170 will give them that opportunity.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M Dreiling". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Michael Dreiling, Professor of Sociology

President, United Academics AAUP/AFT Local 3209