



635 NE Dekum St, Portland, OR, 97211 | (503) 286-0477 | [www.orstudents.org](http://www.orstudents.org) | @OregonStudents

### **Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee,**

The Oregon Student Association urges you to fully support HB 3170. Part of having a quality education means that all stakeholders at our universities have a voice. We support HB 3170 because we want to ensure that research faculty are being given fair treatment in the work place. Research faculty are an essential part of our communities and as a state we should find ways to support them and their work whenever we can.

Most faculty in Oregon's public universities and community colleges are already represented by a union. However, there is currently a population of research faculty at Oregon's public universities who cannot collectively bargain. It's time for all stakeholders of the university to be given the chance to advocate for themselves and their work.

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 the public at large. But currently, many of those faculty members lack the right to collectively bargain 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 communities need needs. Please support HB 3170.