



Oregon School Employees Association

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Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee:

My name is Tyler Shipman I am a government relations specialist with the Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA). Our association represents over 21,000 education employees across the state, including K-12 public schools, education service districts (ESDs), community colleges, Head Starts, park and recreation districts, and libraries. I am submitting this testimony on behalf of OSEA to speak in support of House Bill (HB) 3170.

The ability for employees to participate in a collective bargaining unit is vitally important. Being part of a bargaining unit gives employees a voice in their working conditions, salary and other benefits. Currently, university research faculty are not allowed to be part of the collective bargaining process. Being excluded from collective bargaining, research faculty are provided with no job protections even though they have the same teaching, research and other responsibilities as other faculty staff.

HB 3170 would address this issue by amending the definition of “supervisory authority” in Oregon’s Public Employee Collective Bargaining Act (PECBA). This change would allow research faculty to be included in the collective bargaining process, giving them a voice in their wages, benefits and working conditions. The bill is limited in scope by applying only to university faculty.

This legislation is an important step to guarantee research faculty have the same basic job protections as other faculty in the university system. These employees have a direct impact on their surrounding community and provide important research to our universities. HB 3170 is small change to PECBA which provides employees with job protections that are well deserved and long overdue, as such we urge you to support this legislation.