



Oregon Student Association

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Chair Roblan and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Student Association respectfully urges your support for House Bill 3170. HB 3170 will save money and time by fixing a confusing and inefficient process by creating a clear dividing line between administrators and faculty at Oregon's public universities.

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 an opportunity to have a voice in their work place. This allows them to have shared governance with students, graduate employees, other faculty, staff, the administration, and other stakeholders. The collaboration that results will only strengthen our educational outcomes for students and improve the quality of their education. 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.

Oregon's public universities are renowned for compelling research and instruction on forestry, agriculture, energy, human health, and technology. Faculty produce research that directly supports Oregon's top industries and boosts local economies - especially in rural Oregon. Additionally, their world-class research programs are often supported by external grants that result in additional resources for our universities.

Unfortunately, some of those faculty are unable to collectively bargain. Research faculty have the same teaching, research and service responsibilities as their colleagues who can collectively bargain. However, some faculty who possess limited supervisory authority have no ability to engage in collective bargaining. This happens despite the fact that their supervisory duties are incidental and often exercised for a limited period of time. This scenario often results in a confusing, inefficient, and expensive system of faculty members moving in and out of bargaining units. This bill is a common sense solution which would save time and resources for everyone involved.

HB 3170 would allow faculty with limited supervisory authority the right to collectively bargain - if they so choose. The bill will give teaching and research faculty at Oregon's public universities the chance to work collaboratively to shape the direction and priorities of their universities. It passed the Oregon House by a bipartisan vote of 37-22. A similar bill for fire fighters passed the Oregon Senate on a bipartisan vote in 2014.

HB 3170 will save money and time by fixing a confusing and inefficient process by creating a clear dividing line between administrators and faculty at Oregon's public universities. We urge your support.