



ASSOCIATION OF OREGON FACULTIES

May 18, 2017

To: Senate Committee on Education
Re: HB 3170 – Strong Support

Chair Roblan, Vice-Chair Linthicum, and members of the committee,

The Association of Oregon Faculties (AOF) is an independent, non-union 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.

HB 3170 amends the definition of supervisor in Oregon law only as it pertains to public university faculty who have an academic focus. It's a simple fix that puts university faculty on the same footing as other specialized professions like nursing 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,

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