



American Association of University Professors

Academic Freedom for a Free Society

February 13, 2017

Chair Kathleen Taylor, Vice Chair Tim Knopp
Members of the Senate Committee on Workforce
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Senate Bills 559 and 560

Dear Chair Taylor and members of the Committee,

My name is José Padín. I am a professor at Portland State University, where I've taught for 20 years. I am president of the Oregon State Conference of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP-Oregon). Thank you for your service to our state, and thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today.

On behalf of the more than 3400 members of the American Association of University Professors in Oregon, our collective bargaining faculty chapters at the University of Oregon and Portland State University, and our faculty members across Oregon, I am here to ask that you please oppose SB 559 and 560.

These bills will hurt Oregon's dedicated and hardworking faculty, thereby hurting Oregon's higher education system and Oregon students, and will create yet another, formidable, obstacle in the path of our state's 40-40-20 education goals.

Faculty will take a big hit under bills 559 and 560, we will lose faculty, and we will have a difficult time attracting new quality faculty in a competitive national market. One commitment our state can make to attract and keep quality faculty is to have a secure retirement. It takes a long time, significant personal sacrifice and dedication, and considerable debt, to earn a PhD. These days many professors are part-time, with very low salaries, and may lack even basic health care coverage. Oregon public universities have salaries that are much lower than elsewhere in the nation (PSU salaries, for example, are in the bottom 8% for PhD-granting institutions). *Retirement and related benefits, that offer stability in one's life, are one of the few remaining ways we have of attracting, and retaining, talent.* Oregon made a promise to its hard working citizens and it should keep that promise with current faculty.

It is also our understanding that these bills may be unconstitutional, and could result in wasted time and resources in costly legal battles.

SB 559 and 560 represent a significant disinvestment in Oregon's higher education and will move our state away from our long term push to significantly raise the percentage of Oregonians with a college education. Please oppose these bills.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "José Padín". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a distinct "P".

José Padín, Ph.D.
President