



## ASSOCIATION OF OREGON FACULTIES

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February 6, 2018

To: House Committee on Higher Education  
Oregon State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 4141

Chair Reardon, Vice-Chair Alonso Leon, Vice-Chair Whisnant, and members of the committee,

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

I write to you on behalf of the AOF to express our support for the goals of HB 4141. Oregon students and faculty are clearly impacted by increases in tuition and are concerned over the increasing cost of higher education in Oregon along with what has been, until recent years, a steady disinvestment by the state in higher education. We applaud the more recent prioritization of higher education in the budget process, but Oregon still has a long way to go to end the chronic underfunding of higher education in the state. We support the establishment of Tuition Advisory Council, which will provide broader, more democratic participation from the stakeholders in future possible tuition increases. We particularly support the inclusion of faculty, student leaders, and students from under-served communities on the proposed Council. We also approve of the development of a clear set of criteria under which to discuss tuition increases. For these reasons we support HB 4141.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

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