

February 5, 2018

To: Oregon State Legislative Assembly
Senate Education Committee

From: United Academics of the University of Oregon
AAUP/AFT Local 3209, AFL-CIO

RE: In Support of SB 1563

Dear Members of the Committee,

As faculty of the University of Oregon and Officers in our faculty union, United Academics (UA), we write in support of Senate Bill 1563 and greater educational access for Oregon students. Given our mission in favor of diversity, access to education, and economic opportunity, we believe it is essential and timely to remove restrictions preventing noncitizen students from receiving financial aid and other educational assistance from colleges and universities in Oregon. Here at the University of Oregon, we know that some of our strongest students currently struggle with completing their degrees, not due to academic constraints but because of restricted access to the financial support they require. For example, Oregon ranks 14th in the number of DACA applicants in the nation, with 11,000 participants at the time of its rescission. These students face many unique legal and financial challenges that negatively impact both retention and time to completion. This bill would support Oregon's students statewide to complete their higher education degrees and meet their goals to contribute to the social and economic welfare of our state.

Thank you for your consideration,

Heather Quarles
Faculty, Romance Languages
Chair of the Grievance and Contract Administration Committee
United Academics at the University of Oregon

David Woken
History and Latin American Studies Librarian and Coordinator of Graduate Instruction, UO Libraries
Chair of the Organizing and Membership Committee
United Academics at the University of Oregon

On behalf of United Academics of the University of Oregon