

**ASSOCIATION OF OREGON FACULTIES** 

February 22, 2018

To: Representative Jeff Reardon, Chair House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development Oregon State Capitol Salem, OR 97301

Re: SB 1563-A – Support

Dear Chair Reardon, Vice Chairs Alonso Leon and Whisnant, and members of the Committee,

The Association of Oregon Faculties (AOF) is an independent 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.

In 2013, the Oregon Legislature passed HB 2787, extending in-state tuition to what are often called "DACA" or "dreamer" students. The recent action by the Federal government ending that program without (so far) replacing it, leaves many of those students in considerable difficulty. These young men and women often make outstanding students, and their commitment not only to their own futures, but to the future of their new country, continues to inspire those of us who have the privilege of encountering them in the classroom every day. SB 1563-A continues the commitment we made to these students five years ago by removing the requirement that they file a federal application for an identification document in order to be eligible for resident tuition rates. Not only is this bill *good for higher education in Oregon, but it is also, simply, the right thing to do*. AOF enthusiastically endorses passage of SB 1563-A.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

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

Association of Oregon Faculties, 740 Oakway Circle, Ashland, OR 97520

http://oregonfaculties.org