



# American Association of University Professors

*Academic Freedom for a Free Society*

February 22, 2018

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

Re: Senate Bill 1563-A

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

My name is Michael Dreiling. I am a professor at the University of Oregon, where I've taught for twenty-one 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 communicate with you.

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 support SB 1563.

Oregon has thousands of undocumented or mixed immigration status young people, many of whom are protected with DACA status. Universities and community colleges enroll many of these young people. Faculty all across Oregon, many who are members of AAUP Oregon, advise and teach students enrolled in our classes without regard to their immigration status. This is how it should be. However, we continue to see the harm done to students by anti-immigrant discourse and policies across the country. The continued uncertainties with the Federal DACA protections pose a continuous source of stress and fear for Dreamer students, their friends and family. For students of mixed immigrant status, these same stresses interfere with their education and sense of security in our communities. The Oregon legislature has already done the right thing with tuition equity and now, with SB 1563, has the opportunity to preemptively mitigate some of the human costs should our national government fail to do the right thing with DACA.

A 2014 PEW Research Center study estimates that Oregon is home to more than 130,000 undocumented immigrants. And, according to the American Immigration Council, more than

10,000 of these immigrants are *Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)* recipients. Among this group are college students who aspire to become the first members of their family to complete a postsecondary degree. SB 1563 would allow these students to achieve this goal.

By waiving requirements for federal identification to attend Oregon's universities and community colleges, SB 1563-A will put some constraints on the inhumane national initiatives that play politics with young people. Doing so is key to fulfilling the state's higher education mission. We ask that you please support SB 1563-A. Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Dreiling", is centered on a light yellow rectangular background.

Michael C. Dreiling, Ph.D  
Professor Sociology, University of Oregon  
President, AAUP-Oregon