



Dear Chair Wagner and members of the committee,

My name is Andrew Rogers and I am the Communications Director for the Oregon Student Association, a state-wide, student led advocacy group which represents the collective interests of students in postsecondary education across Oregon.

I write to urge a yes vote on SB 852, which would provide affordable health-insurance to our part-time faculty at community colleges and public universities in Oregon.

Oregon Student Association works on issues relating to the affordability and quality of public education in Oregon, and we know that students share much of the same struggles as the part-time, adjunct faculty who work so hard to help students succeed in the classroom. Both students and faculty are facing economic hardships. Both groups are overworked and underpaid.

In our work we hear time and time again how hard it is for students to succeed in class while struggling to pay rent, afford their next meals, and access the health care they need in order to be in a good place to learn. Low-income students are no strangers to stringing together multiple jobs to survive and yet finding the deck to still be stacked against them. The same struggle is impacting our part-time, adjunct faculty, who are often working much more hours than their full-time counterparts, working at multiple community colleges and universities, yet still receiving no benefits. This situation is as widespread as it is disconcerting; in fact according to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, part-time faculty make up 70% or more of the total instructional staff at 12 of Oregon's 17 community colleges.

In an increasingly challenging higher-education environment, faculty and students are both expected to meet very high standards while investments are not being made in frontline services, programs, and courses which support students. The Oregon legislature has the power and the responsibility to address this problem and break down the barriers to student success, which include providing for the basic well-being of those who work with and teach our students every day in the classroom.

Let's commit together to improving the education our students receive. Thank you for your consideration, and please vote yes on SB 852.

Sincerely,

Andrew Rogers

Communications Director, Oregon Student Association