

March 11, 2019

Chair Wagner, Vice Chair Thomsen, and members of the committee:

My name is Leslie Ormandy and I am a part-time faculty member who teaches classes at Clackamas Community College. I belong to one of the 3 college's which do provide access to health coverage to some Part-time Faculty members. I am lucky. I urge you to support SB 852 for the passionate educators working more than fulltime hours although teaching as "Part-time Faculty" in your classrooms.

First, I want to thank you for passing the earlier legislation allowing part-time faculty earning PERS eligibility access to insurance through OEGB. It was a wonderful step. But unless one lives the life we do, quarterly employment at the will of the employer and summer jobs alongside our students when no classes are offered us, the problem isn't clear. We often can't afford to purchase OEGB coverage, so we opt to pay out-of-pocket for catastrophic Marketplace coverage.

As a cancer survivor, I can speak to the value of the catastrophic. It has been years now, but I can still hear that voice on the phone informing me that there was a time-bomb in my body. My first thought was not about the cancer and surviving it, it was how I could possibly afford to pay for treatment. I still agonize over the answer; I couldn't. At that time, Clackamas only said, "We understand that health insurance is important to Part-time Faculty." I went on welfare during treatment, teaching 2 days a week and getting poisoned the other 3 days. I have continued working at Clackamas teaching students who believe that getting an education will garner them a secure life.

I am current President of the Part-time Faculty Association at Clackamas, and as such, I have to tell many colleagues who earn PERS hours that they don't work enough hours at Clackamas for our coverage. They feel devalued. They are devalued. I know I am telling them to make the decisions I had to make. Buy cheap because you can't afford better and hope for the best. So, again, I urge you to pass SB 852.

I want to thank you for your time and work and the opportunity to share my story.

Leslie Ormandy,
Clackamas Community College Part-Time Faculty