

April 2, 2019

To: Joint Committee on Student Success
From: United Academics University of Oregon, AAUP-AFT Local 3209
Re: HB 3427

Good evening Co-Chairs Roblan and Smith Warner and members of the committee:

My name is Avinnash Tiwari, and I am the politics chair of United Academics at the University of Oregon (UAUO). I am also a faculty member in English and Writing Composition. Every year, I go over to Springfield HS to work with graduating students on their college applications. I help them craft their personal statements for admissions and scholarships. In doing so, the biggest challenge for me is hearing the incredible obstacles so many of these young people faced in order to be the first in their family to attend college. Its more than difficult actually; it is heartbreaking. And at the same time, to see how these young people persevere under such adverse conditions, not only in their lives, but including the adversity faced in their K-12 education, should give us all a sense of hope. But rather, I'm left angry. I'm angry that students have to work under the conditions they do; angry that teachers have to go above and beyond their duties and remuneration in order to provide a baseline of support for our young people. I'm angry that the desire for a truly equitable educational experience for *all* students is empty rhetoric without real material support.

I am grateful that this committee truly values the right of all our young people to a worthy education. Thank you for your work on HB 3427 to support our students and teachers. I ask that you support a minimum investment of 2 billion dollars for K-12 education. Because I know you all value the necessity of a strong education for our young Oregonians, you also understand the necessity to support our young people throughout their entire educational journey. Let's not get them halfway, but all the way through to higher education. To do so ensures that our State and our people will thrive now and in the future.