

Date: February 5, 2019
To: House Committee on Education
From: Betsy Dasenko, Adjunct Instructor, ORTESOL board member
Re: Support for HB 4146

Chair Doherty, Vice Chairs Alonso Leon and Helt, and members of the Committee:

My name is Betsy Dasenko. I have worked as an adjunct instructor at Oregon State University, Western Oregon, and Linn Benton Community College in Albany off and on for the past 11 years. I hold a Master's degree in education and have over 19 years of experience as an educator in Oregon and abroad. **I want to urge you to support HB 4146** to address the state's increasing reliance on part-time faculty working at multiple institutions of higher education and the lack of access to affordable healthcare and retirement benefits for those part-time faculty.

The system currently in place presents several big challenges, one of them being the health care issue. When I work for 2 or more of the above institutions, I do not receive health-insurance benefits or retirement benefits like other full-time faculty even when my FTE often is equivalent to or more than full time. I rotate between two different departments at OSU, one which refuses to give me more than .49 FTE so they can cut costs. I cannot work for both departments at one time as they do not want to share the benefits cost as both positions together would put me over .5 FTE. Some terms the only way to meet our family's bottom line is to work at multiple universities. I end up driving so much that the additional time is equivalent to .3 FTE. I am not reimbursed for this extra time and often wonder if I should leave education and pursue employment in the private sector or in another field besides education, so I don't have the additional stress of full-time employment without access to benefits.

However, teaching is my passion. Connecting with students and making a difference in their lives through education is something I excel at. I am a valued member of the teaching community in multiple institutions, but sometimes don't feel like the value goes beyond anything more than cursory acknowledgement. Many supervisors understand the need for employment that provides benefits but don't have any say in how the financial pieces of their department operate. Passing bill 4146 would provide the needed benefit support to make holding 2 or 3 jobs at multiple institutions more financially manageable.

I ask you to approve House Bill 4146 to provide benefits to adjunct educators in similar situations as me. This would go a long way to providing a bit of peace of mind for all the extra work that educators do who work at multiple universities, and who do so to provide for their families.

Please support us in providing a basic human right to those who give so much to their students, communities, and institutions.

Thank you,

Betsy Dasenko

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