

I write to urge you to support HB 3007/SB 551, Part-Time Faculty Health Care.

As you may know, American higher education has reached a crisis created by decades of reduced public funding and increasing reliance on tuition dollars and curtailing labor costs. The growing army of part-time contingent faculty members is one result. Those of us who managed to secure tenure-track positions were the lucky ones. The rest, my colleagues who spent years becoming expert scholars, face a ridiculously competitive labor market, a decline in well-paid and secure tenure-track positions, and often a life of poverty and overwork. It is immoral, and it is bad for students and for Oregon.

The 1,700 Oregon educators who work full time (often more than full time) but have to split their time between or among different institutions deserve, at the very least, access to health care. It's that simple. And Oregon's students deserve to learn from faculty members who have the time, energy, and basic economic security to bring their all into the classroom. My colleagues do a remarkable job; they could do even better if Oregon ensured they had access to basic needs like health insurance coverage.

Thank you,  
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