



# American Association of University Professors

*Academic Freedom for a Free Society*

May 10, 2021

Senate Committee on Education  
Oregon State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

**Re: House Bill 3255A—Support**

Chair Dembrow, Vice Chair Thomsen, and members of the Committee,

On behalf of the more than 6300 members of the American Association of University Professors in Oregon, our collective bargaining chapters at the University of Oregon, Portland State University, Oregon State University, and Oregon Institute of Technology, and our faculty members across Oregon, I ask that you **please support HB 3255-A**.

I also am writing on behalf of my local institution, our faculty union, United Academics at the University of Oregon. Over this current academic year, I can say with certainty many of our faculty, especially the majority of Instructional faculty teaching and researching, serving on University committees, running programs, and often serving as a first-line of help and support for our most vulnerable students, are surviving on an economic fringe. Such is the fiscal reality of not having tenure in institutions relying heavily on our labor. Simple and effective communication about the loan forgiveness options available to those of us serving our students in public institutions is a **crucial** first step towards giving many of my colleagues some financial security. Indeed, the benefit of loan-forgiveness in our current moment can be an incredible draw to work at one of our institutions of Higher Education. It was what brought me here. And yet during my first year working at UO full-time, I had colleagues who *did not* know this was an option for them.

And while I have spoken primarily of faculty, we know how difficult it is today to find a job, any job of the myriad of things that happen in an educational institution, without a college degree. We also know how difficult it is to leave college without stifling debt. I am grateful to the long list of Representatives and Senator Gorsek for sponsoring **HB 3255-A** and ask you support this legislation. It is also a wonderful example of simple and effective legislation that can have a major impact on those of us who choose to serve our students in Education.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Avinnash P. Tiwari'.

Avinnash P. Tiwari  
Vice-President Politics, AAUP-Oregon; Politics Chair, UAUO AAUP-AFT Local 3209  
Instructor, ENG and Acting Director, BLST