

I support SB 564, a bill that would require the collection of data on students who are also parenting. As both a teacher at the college level, and a researcher who studies the struggles of low-wage working households, female-headed households, and the challenges of carework in a variety of contexts, I would find this information to be important. I often provide informal support and flexibility to my students who are also parenting, but institutional recognition and formal support is critical to their success. The university system is in no position to provide additional resources without the data regarding who and how many would be affected. Just as other underrepresented and often marginalized groups benefit from being identified, made more visible, and being able to access institutional resources targeted at those groups to enable their successful completion of college, so too should we provide resources and support to parenting students, many of whom are single parents, and/or living in poverty. The first step is having reliable data regarding how many of our students are also parents, where they are enrolled in school, the years to degree, and their graduation rates. I support beginning to collect these data through the mandate established by SB 564.

Ellen K. Scott, Professor, Sociology, University of Oregon