

Hello,

I am writing in support of the part-time faculty at Portland Community College. The part-time faculty valiantly labor to educate our students, without the support that full-time faculty receive, such as having an office and additional resources. They do so, while likely having to work at multiple campuses and take part-time jobs, with the added expense and setback of additional commuting. It seems counterintuitive, and even cruel, to deny them health care.

When the faculty are stressed about basic human needs such as health care, the students are going to suffer as well. Faculty will have less time and energy to give feedback, or to write those recommendation letters for all the students that need them to get into university programs. Community Colleges are the gateway of opportunity to so many people of lower income. My father was a high school dropout and a single parent to two children under the age of 5; and he attended community college, and was then able to transfer to UCSD and graduate, and start his career. Many of my students are housing- and food-insecure. These are the types of students these part-time faculty members are teaching, and their work is absolutely vital.

I was part-time faculty for 7 years in Washington State, and I am currently full-time faculty here in Oregon. I was honestly shocked when I arrived, to find out that some part-time faculty did not have insurance, and the ones that do are always at risk of losing it. It is a huge added stress on them, and not something I would expect to encounter in a progressive state such as Oregon. Please do the right thing and vote to treat these faculty like the cherished members of our community they are.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jessica Beck  
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