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I urge you to pass HB 3007 on behalf of the many dedicated, capable part-time faculty directing their life toward educating our citizens. I sympathize greatly with these wonderful educators because of the many insults built into the Higher Education system that treats the majority of faculty, part-timers, as expendable. In many cases, because they must split their time between a number of institutions to make ends meet, they don't formally qualify for insurance at an individual institution. If all the courses being taught by that instructor through the Oregon systems were counted, they would and should qualify for health insurance. This bill would alleviate the added stress of insecure health care access for the part-time faculty who find themselves in this situation.

As a full-time faculty member and a Faculty Department Chair who makes course assignments to part-time faculty, and formerly a dedicated part-time instructor for many years, I continue to feel the sting on their behalf when we are not able to assign enough classes to qualify them for basic insurance coverage at our institution. Yet often they are working elsewhere in the Oregon system. It seems the least that we can do as a state is to make accessible insurance a possibility for them, when if they were teaching all their classes in one Oregon institution, they would qualify for it.

Our whole higher education system needs to change in regard to the use and abuse of job-insecure part-time faculty, yet the system is entrenched and unmoving in this regard. While this remains the case, the State of Oregon should step up on behalf of these wonderful and committed teachers and provide accessibility to insurance for them.