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**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
**DISTRICT 20**



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

February 18, 2021

House Committee on Education  
Oregon House of Representatives  
Oregon State Capitol

Ref: HB 3007 “Health care Fairness for Part-Time College Faculty.”

Dear Colleagues:

It is time we recognize and resolve the inherent unfairness of health care affordability and availability for the thousands of professionals teaching in our community colleges and public universities. Right now, adjunct faculty (also referred to as part-time instructors) teach most of the classes at the major universities, many classes at our Technical and Regional Universities (TRUs), and are the glue enabling our community colleges to deliver meaningful instruction.

Over the past three decades, public colleges and universities have proven incapable of sustaining large permanent instructional staffing. The dirty little secret within higher education is that adjuncts are not only cheaper than permanent faculty but often more willing to stretch beyond the contractual minimums. Because of the environment within which they must survive: increasingly tight job markets within education allow for conditions that in most instances would be recognized as both unfair and unjust.

Many adjunct instructors must teach at multiple schools to pay the bills. These men and women often teach more hours than the permanent instructors teach and for significantly less money. In truth, an entire generation of instructors at Oregon’s eight public universities have been taught more by adjunct instruction than by permanent faculty. Unless an adjunct instructor teaches at least half-time at a specific school (even if they teach at schools within the same “system”), they are not provided affordable or available health care. There are hundreds, perhaps thousands, of adjunct instructors struggling to find piecemeal opportunities to earn a salary, and often on a “term by term basis” with no security beyond a three-month span.

We can do better. We must. I know firsthand the challenging realities of teaching as a “road-scholar,” and now is the time to provide these educational professionals with at least a baseline level of health care security. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,