

February 22, 2021

Chair Dembrow and Senate Committee on Education

I am writing in support of SB 551

I moved to Central Oregon to take a teaching job at both Central Oregon Community College and Oregon State University- Cascades. I teach 3-4 classes a term or between 10-16 credit hours a term (split between schools). On top of this, before COVID 19, I would teach community education courses for the school in the evening. Because I am a term by term hire my starting compensation is considerably lower than that of someone with a 9 month contract or full time. I am also at risk, based on enrollment, of losing my insurance every term. I was without insurance all last year. From September 2018 till June of this year I will have taught 12 different classes, seen over 350 students, worked for two state institutions, and have only had coverage based on need, but it is constant flux. At the beginning of COVID the school I work at attempted to cap my class lower than normal so I wouldn't get enrollment numbers to nudge me into safe, benefit eligible territory. This happening during a global pandemic this showed little interest in my well being as an adjunct/associated faculty.

Knowing the government of the state that I was born in is looking out for my best interest as an educator and my healthcare needs as an employee would mean stability, both economically and mentally and allow me to focus on teaching.

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