

To: Chair Dembrow and Members of the Senate Education Committee
From: Dana Richardson - Executive Director, Oregon Council of Presidents
RE: Senate Bill 551 (2021)
Date: February 22, 2021

Please accept this submission in support of the passage of Senate Bill 551. We appreciate the work that stakeholders have put into this bill over multiple legislative Sessions. Faculty provide immense value to our institutions, our students, and the state, and deserve to have adequate and affordable health insurance.

Proponents of the bill also recognize the immense financial challenges faced by public universities and community colleges and agree that state funding should cover the cost of this new program. We are appreciative of that support and for Governor Kate Brown including funding for this cost in the Governor's Recommended Budget.

Some of Oregon's public universities already provide health insurance coverage for part-time faculty above .5 FTE, so it is our hope that this bill is clear that we can continue to provide that important coverage and that it applies to faculty whose hours are less than .5 FTE.

Thank you for your consideration.