



# American Association of University Professors

*Academic Freedom for a Free Society*

February 25, 2021

House Committee on Education  
900 Court St.  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 2919

Chair Alonso Leon, Vice Chairs, Neron and Weber, and members of the Committee,

On behalf of the more than 6,300 members of the American Association of University Professors in Oregon, our collective bargaining chapters at the University of Oregon, Portland State University, Oregon State University, and Oregon Institute of Technology, and our faculty members across Oregon, I am writing in support of HB 2919, with one friendly amendment in regards to addressing situations where there are late hires of faculty or where materials that were being tested are no longer deemed to suit the needs of the course.

Oregon's postsecondary student population, particularly first-generation and BIPOC students, continue to experience financial hardship and food insecurity because of the economic recession since the start of the pandemic early last year. Research shows that this group of students are the fastest growing student population aspiring to complete a college degree. Research also shows a strong correlation between social mobility and degree attainment. We concur that student retention and graduation rates depend on college accessibility and affordability, including providing information about textbooks and course material costs.

HB 2919, requires postsecondary institutions to "prominently display total costs of all required course materials and fees for no less than 75 percent of total courses" that they offer. AAUP-OR and other higher education faculty, including AFT and OEA, support this concept with the afore mentioned amendment. Our thanks go to Rep. Reardon and Rep. Sollman for all of their work on this bill and who are offering an amendment to ensure that we anticipate the unintended consequence that would otherwise result if we fail to address those textbooks assigned by the small number of late hires who would not have the opportunity to meet the materials cost timeline or where materials are deemed to no longer meet the needs of the course.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Ramin Farahmandpur  
AAUP Oregon Legislative Committee member