



American Association of University Professors

Academic Freedom for a Free Society

February 3, 2022

Senator Dembrow, Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Education
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Senate Bill 1545—Support

Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Thomsen and members of the Committee,

On behalf of the more than 6300 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 ask that you please support SB 1545.

Senate Bill 1545, the Future Ready Oregon 2022 proposal, represents an important investment in the future of Oregon's workforce. As faculty, staff, and graduate employees around Oregon's higher education system, AAUP Oregon members are keenly aware of the need for a modern, educated, and supported workforce. Future Ready Oregon is a great start toward building just such a workforce in the state.

AAUP Oregon and our members are also happy to see the focus Future Ready Oregon places on minority and other underserved communities across our state. By building these pathways to meaningful, long-term, and higher-earning jobs, the workforce in Oregon will be more equitable and better prepared to meet the challenges of the coming years. We also hope that these investments will have the knock-on effect of increasing the representation from these communities in our Oregon higher education system. Our members, institutions, and state will be better served in the long-term by passing SB 1545.

Additionally, we hope to see support services expanded. As Oregon adds new skilled workers to our labor force, those workers will need support. Education, child care, health services, and so many other parts of a worker's life must be expanded upon and improved. As our members know from experiences on campus, the job is only one part of building a life, and including these support services from the beginning will help ensure that those people who benefit from Future Ready Oregon can stay in Oregon for the long haul.

For all these reasons, AAUP Oregon is asking that you please pass SB 1545.
Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Shay". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Steve Shay
President, AAUP-Oregon