



American Association of University Professors

Academic Freedom for a Free Society

Representative Lively, Chair
Members of the House Committee on Higher Education
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: House Bill 2740 - Support

Chair Lively, Vice-Chairs McIntire, Ruiz, 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 ask that you please support HB 2740.

While this body's efforts to ensure that part-time faculty have access to health care is laudable, it is inevitable that the first attempt at addressing such a complex issue would find itself in need of refinement. We believe that HB 2740 is a necessary refinement to a program that has good intentions, but may leave health care out of reach for a significant population it is meant to benefit.

Higher education institutions across Oregon disproportionately rely on part-time faculty, and many faculty would use the program established by SB 551 if it were available to them. There have been varying methodologies for calculating eligibility of part time faculty under SB 551 (2021) and HB 2740 will greatly improve the program by bringing consistency and more certainty to those hard-working faculty needing to access healthcare under the system.

Faculty working conditions are directly linked to student learning conditions, thus making sure that hard-working part-time faculty have consistency and can access the healthcare they need is in everyone's interest. Please support Oregon's students and faculty by supporting HB 2740.

Thank you for your consideration,
Victor Reyes
Director, AAUP Oregon