

March 23, 2023

To: Senate Committee on Education
From: Ida Nyberg, Senior Instructor of French, Portland State University
RE: Support for SB 416 and Pay Equity

Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Weber, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ida Nyberg, I have been teaching 1st, 2nd and 3rd year French classes at PSU since receiving my master's degree in French Literature from PSU in 2017. When I was in grad school, a philosophy adjunct lived in his office across the hall from us. This was in 2015. He would bring out cans of beans and tuna to the trash in the hallway. His dog often laid on the floor in the hallway and our students had to step over it to enter our office. It smelled pretty bad. Let me repeat, the guy lived in his office. In 2015. Things have not gotten easier for adjuncts. The recent inflation has poured gasoline on the fire. This is a crisis and it's time to take action.

I truly feel that my husband subsidizes PSU. His job provides me and my son with what my job does not: health insurance. If it weren't for him and his high earnings, I would not be able to do this job, which I love and am very good at. I see my students getting better and better as the years go on, and I can tell you, that's not random, it's because I have grown into a very confident and capable instructor. It takes years to become really good at teaching, and us adjuncts are skilled, reliable employees. We see very little compensation for our work.

My son's preschool costs \$1099 / month and my net paycheck is \$1289. You can do the math. My husband and I prioritize me working because I need work for my mental health and personal growth. It's pretty sad though, that our childcare cost eats up what is essentially my whole paycheck.

I have no retirement savings after 7 years in my same job. None.

I urge you to support Senate Bill 416. It's 2023 and we need pay-equity.

Respectfully,
Ida Nyberg