



American Association of University Professors

Academic Freedom for a Free Society

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

February 8, 2024

Re: Senate Bill 1552 - Support

Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair 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 in advocacy chapters across Oregon, we urge you to support SB 1552 (section 35 - part-time faculty healthcare).

Our state has made great strides in ensuring that part-time faculty members working at Oregon's public university have access to healthcare, including vision and dental. With forthcoming amendments, the updated language found in section 35 of SB 1552 will build off of the progress already made in previous sessions by clarifying what work qualifies towards accessing this important benefit and make it easier for faculty to select their home institution.

Faculty working conditions directly impact student learning conditions, and when Oregon's hard-working part-time faculty have access to healthcare, they are able to better focus on the work to which they have dedicated their professional lives: educating the next generation of working professionals in our great state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Victor Reyes
Executive Director