



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

February 8, 2024

Re: House Bill 4162 - 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 in advocacy chapters across Oregon, we urge you to support HB 4162.

Students in Oregon's public universities can not achieve their higher education goals when their basic needs are not met. The dual purposes of HB 4162, which would fund both the Open Educational Resources Program and a grant program to support college and university benefits navigators, will help to ensure that students in Oregon face fewer barriers to their success.

The proposed funding builds off of the good work this legislature has already accomplished in previous legislative sessions, and passage of this bill will create stability in these programs for the remainder of this biennium.

As a state, we must support our students with whatever resources they need so that they can focus on their studies. This is a prudent investment in the future of our workforce, and the money spent this biennium will pay dividends as students from underrepresented backgrounds receive the support they need to uplift themselves, their families, and their communities through higher education and the expanded opportunities that come from that education.

Thank you for your consideration.

Victor Reyes
Executive Director, AAUP Oregon