



American Association of University Professors

Academic Freedom for a Free Society

February 11, 2025

House Committee on Behavioral Health and Healthcare

Re: House Bill HB 3064 – Support

Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Javadi and Nelson, 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 3064.

HB 3064 is a common-sense expansion of healthcare access that too few women in the United States currently have covered. In fact, should the legislature pass this bill, Oregon would join only two other states in our nation, Alabama and Illinois, that have recognized and addressed this inequity in healthcare coverage by requiring that the stages of menopause be covered by all health insurers. Our state has a duty to our residents to combat inequity wherever we can, and when it comes to healthcare, there is a clear inequity that disadvantages women.

[A 2024 report from the World Economic Forum and the McKinsey Health Institute](#) finds that though women live longer than men on average, they experience debilitating health issues 25% more frequently. The report found that women's health concerns are often minimized by medical professionals, leading to delays in accurate diagnoses, and the symptoms of menopause are often misdiagnosed as other conditions. The impact of misdiagnosed or under-treated menopause symptoms has economic impacts as well. According to the report, about 80% of women experiencing menopause-related symptoms state that it interferes with their lives, and menopause has been linked to premature departure from the workforce.

By requiring all healthcare plans to cover all stages of menopause, our state can work to chip away at the medical sexism ingrained in our healthcare system. According to [a](#)

[2023 study conducted by Deloitte](#), employed women's annual healthcare costs in the United States are \$15 billion dollars higher than employed men, and on average women of all ages have higher out-of-pocket healthcare expenses than the average man of an equivalent age. When excluding pregnancy-related expenses, the average employed woman spends 18% more than men in out-of-pocket healthcare spending, further exacerbating the wage gap that working women endure. Passage of HB 3064 would help to narrow the gap, which is a goal that all Oregonians should support.

Please support HB 3064. Thank you for your consideration.

Victor Reyes
Executive Director, AAUP Oregon