

Chair Lieber, Chair Sanchez, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Hollie Oakes-Miller, and I serve as Vice President of Political Action at the American Federation of Teachers - Oregon, which represents thousands of education workers across the state. I'm also a part-time faculty member at Portland Community College, and today I'm writing on behalf of our members to urge you to **fully fund education** — and to **build a state budget rooted in fairness, responsibility, and long-term investment**.

For decades, education in Oregon has been underfunded — and that chronic disinvestment has had consequences for students, for educators, and for entire communities. For example, institutions of higher education have come to rely heavily on part-time faculty, often turning these vital positions into gig jobs. Oregon ranks among the highest in the nation for its reliance on part-time instructors who are paid significantly less on a per-course basis than our full-time colleagues, even though we do the same work.

That's why we support House Bill 2669, which would take an important step toward pay parity in higher education — not only to improve conditions for educators, but to increase stability and outcomes for students.

But progress like this isn't possible if Oregon gives away the resources we need to fund it. As you build the state budget, we urge you to:

- **Reject new tax breaks for corporations and billionaires.** These giveaways jeopardize our ability to invest in what really matters — education, housing, health care, and infrastructure.
- **Protect and reinforce existing state revenues** so that we can weather economic uncertainty without cutting critical services.
- **Prioritize strategic investments** that will support the most Oregonians, especially those who are struggling the most. That includes funding public education and the people who make it work.
- **Stay the course.** Don't rush into cuts based on speculation about federal action. We must respond with care, not panic.

Oregon's budget should reflect our values — and our values call for investing in people, not padding corporate profits. Now is the time to make thoughtful, strategic choices that move our state forward and create more opportunities for all Oregonians.

Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

Hollie Oakes-Miller
VP of Political Action
AFT-Oregon