

Chair Bowman, Vice-Chairs Elmer and Pham, and Members of the House Committee on Rules,

I am writing on behalf of AFT-Oregon. We are a labor federation representing workplace unions across the state in early learning, K-12 schools, and across our state's college and university landscape. Our 28 unions represent over 18,000 essential staff, instructors, faculty, and employees who support our students and advocate for the public good. **AFT-Oregon supports HB 4143 and recommends the legislature pass the bill.**

As public workers across the state, we have deeply felt the impact already of federal targeting of higher education grant funding towards critical programs that have become politicized, such as research and scholarship within diversity, equity, and inclusion. We are seeing how Oregon's progressive stances towards immigrants, LGBTQ+ community members, and peaceful protest are making us a target. We need every tool as a state stick up for ourselves. HB 4143 presents an opportunity for Oregon to make the withholding of funds a two-way street and gives us a bargaining chip to protect the public good.

Sincerely,



Harper Haverkamp, PhD  
American Federation of Teachers – Oregon (AFT-Oregon)