



# American Association of University Professors

*Academic Freedom for a Free Society*

March 11, 2019

Chair Rob Wagner  
Members of the Senate Committee on Education  
Oregon State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

**Re: Senate Bill 852—Support**

Chair Wagner, Vice Chair Thomsen, and members of the Committee,

On behalf of the more than 6300 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 across Oregon, I ask that you **please support SB 852**.

Institutions of higher education, both public universities and community colleges, have increasingly come to depend on the use of adjunct and part-time faculty as a response to Oregon's years of underfunding of the university system, yet constant need to continue serving students. Because of this practice, many part-time faculty must piece together work at multiple institutions, often traveling between two or three locations in a day in order to cobble together enough work to make a living. These faculty are just as highly trained and hard working as any other university or community college instructors, but don't have enough hours at any one institution to qualify for health care coverage, although they would qualify if their total hours happened to be at one institution. This is in contrast to faculty teaching a similar number of total hours, but at one institution. *This can lead to part-time faculty being forced to choose between purchasing health care and supporting the very basic needs of their families.*

SB 852 would help to remedy this inequitable situation by letting part-time and adjunct faculty combine their hours at various institutions for the purpose of determining whether they can qualify for health care coverage. Good policy like SB 852 is vital to helping these faculty members serve our students in the best way possible.

Please pass SB 852 to address this serious and unfair situation.  
Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Dreiling".

Michael Dreiling  
President, AAUP-Oregon



# American Association of University Professors

*Academic Freedom for a Free Society*

March 19, 2019

Chair Andrea Salinas  
Members of the House Health Care Committee  
Oregon State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

**Re: House Bill 3075—Support**

Chair Salinas, Vice Chair Nosse, Vice Chair Hayden, and members of the Committee,

On behalf of the more than 6300 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 across Oregon, I ask that you **please support HB 3075**.

While the 2017 passage of SB 1067 was an important attempt to control health insurance costs for Oregon public employers, some of its provisions have produced unintended consequences without reducing expenditures.

The elimination of coordinated coverage hurts families where both spouses work in public service. The ability to coordinate coverage helps offset the exceptional health care costs some families face. These costs are especially pronounced when a family member suffers from an acute injury or illness or has medical conditions that require long-term care. Public service workers facing serious medical hardships within their families should have the ability to take advantage of both spouses' health benefits to control their out-of-pocket costs. For families who need coordinated coverage, allowing for double coverage prevents the loss of talent among public service workers and ensures access to equitable and necessary benefits. Reducing benefits that are crucial for some families may have real consequences for the state's ability to attract and retain the highest caliber faculty.

For workers who do not need OEGB or PEBB coverage, opt-out incentives can provide a lower cost alternative to fully funding benefits. The elimination of this option lowered the incentive for public workers who have health insurance through a spouse to decline coverage. This has produced the unintended consequence of increasing costs for public employers.

Given that provisions to remove coordinated coverage and opt-out incentives appear to have resulted in increased costs, the passage of HB 3075 represents a true win-win for both the public employers and Oregon workers, including the thousands of faculty represented by AAUP-Oregon.

Please pass HB 3075 to reinstate coordinated coverage and opt-out incentives, thereby nullifying the unintended negative consequences of SB 1067.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Dreiling", is centered on a light yellow rectangular background.

Michael Dreiling  
President, AAUP-Oregon



# American Association of University Professors

*Academic Freedom for a Free Society*

March 20, 2019

Senate Committee on Education  
900 Court St.  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for SB 859 and SB 958

Chair Wagner, and members of the Committee,

My name is Ramin Farahmandpur. I am a Professor in the department of Educational Leadership and Policy in the College of Education at Portland State University. I also serve as AAUP Oregon's Vice-President of Political Action. I am writing in support of SB 859 and SB 958.

In 2013, the Oregon Legislature passed House Bill 2787, also known as the "tuition equity" bill, into law. One of the provisions of the law is that it exempts qualifying undergraduate students who are not citizens or lawful permanent residents from paying nonresident tuition at Oregon public universities. According to a 2018 state report, between 2013 and 2018, the law increased the number of students benefiting from tuition equity from 63 to 564.

Senate Bill 859 extends this exemption to qualifying graduate students, in particular underserved students, who plan to enroll in a post-baccalaureate degree program. Further, it expands access to higher education—key to social mobility and vital to the state's economic development. Finally, aligned with the state's 40-40-20 aspirational goals, the bill boosts the state's degree attainment.

The general consensus among economists is that the earning gap between high school and college graduates has widened over the last 40 years. In 1979, for example, the earning gap between high school and college graduates was \$17,411. By 2012, however, the earning gap grew to \$34,969.

The importance of a college education is irrefutable. Research shows that between 1980 and 2005, a college education accounted for 66 percent of the total increase of earning dispersion.

Senate Bill 958, which creates the Dreamers Access Program, awards student loans to eligible undocumented students who aspire to obtain a college education. For Oregon's underserved student population, a college education increases social and economic opportunities in pursuit of the American Dream.

We urge you to vote in support of SB 859 and SB 958.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these important bills.

Ramin Farahmandpur  
Vice-President for Political Action, AAUP Oregon



# American Association of University Professors

*Academic Freedom for a Free Society*

April 2, 2019

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain  
Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education  
Oregon State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

## **Re: House Bill 5024**

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and members of the Committee,

My name is Ramin Farahmandpur. I am a Professor in the department of Educational Leadership and Policy in the College of Education at Portland State University. I also serve as AAUP-Oregon's Vice-President of Political Action. On behalf of the more than 6300 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 across Oregon, I ask that you reverse the years of disinvestment in higher education in Oregon and increase the amount of the Public University Support Fund proposed in House Bill 5024.

As faculty in Oregon's public universities, AAUP-Oregon members know firsthand the devastating results of our underfunded higher education system. Insufficient funding has resulted in skyrocketing tuition and unsustainable debt for our students. Our students are stretched thin between their studies and multiple jobs, unsure how they'll cover their bills or secure their next meal. Generations of Oregonians have turned to higher education as a pathway out of poverty. Today, the pursuit of higher education may well leave students in greater poverty when high tuition costs lead students to abandon their studies before completing their degree. *If we want to serve these students, we must fund our universities, control tuition costs, and provide the faculty and staff that support degree completion.*

Oregon's public universities need **an increase of at least \$120 million to the Public University Support Fund level proposed in House Bill 5024**. Without real investment in our higher education system, we will deprive our students access to economic mobility and will deprive our state of the talent, passion, and creativity of a generation of Oregonians.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Ramin Farahmandpur  
Vice-President of Political Action, AAUP-Oregon



# American Association of University Professors

*Academic Freedom for a Free Society*

April 3, 2019

House Committee on Education  
900 Court St.  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for HB 3204

Chair Doherty and members of the Committee,

My name is Ramin Farahmandpur. I am a Professor in the department of Educational Leadership and Policy in the College of Education at Portland State University. I also serve as AAUP Oregon's Vice-President of Political Action. I am writing in support of HB 3204.

In 2013, the Oregon Legislature passed House Bill 2787, also known as the "tuition equity" bill, into law. One of the provisions of the law is that it exempts qualifying undergraduate students who are not citizens or lawful permanent residents from paying nonresident tuition at Oregon public universities. According to a 2018 state report, between 2013 and 2018, the law increased the number of students benefiting from tuition equity from 63 to 564. Despite this important legislation, many undocumented students require student loans to afford college tuition. Because of their immigration status, undocumented students do not have access to the full range of federal student loans.

House Bill 3204, which creates the Dreamers Access Program, awards student loans to eligible undocumented students who aspire to obtain a college education. In so doing, it expands access to higher education—key to social mobility and vital to the state's economic development. Finally, aligned with the state's 40-40-20 aspirational goals, the bill will boost the state's degree attainment. The importance of a college education is irrefutable. Research shows that between 1980 and 2005, a college education accounted for 66 percent of the total increase of earning dispersion.

For Oregon's underserved student population, a college education increases social and economic opportunities in pursuit of the American Dream. House Bill 3204 will expand access to higher education by offering student loans to eligible undocumented students.

We urge you to vote in support of HB 3204.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important bill.

Ramin Farahmandpur  
Vice-President for Political Action, AAUP Oregon



# American Association of University Professors

*Academic Freedom for a Free Society*

April 3, 2019

Chair Margaret Doherty  
Members of the House Committee on Education  
Oregon State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

**Re: House Bill 3280—Support**

Chair Doherty and members of the Committee,

On behalf of the more than 6300 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 across Oregon, I ask that you please support HB 3280.

House Bill 3280 would add a graduate student position to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) and convert five non-voting positions—community college undergraduate student, public university undergraduate student, community college faculty, public university faculty, and staff member—to voting positions. Providing a vote to existing commissioner positions will give equal voice to those commissioners most directly connected to the higher education system the HECC is charged with overseeing. As the HECC takes up important matters such as the approval of tuition increases, authorization of programmatic changes, and the establishment of transfer pathways, the fully realized voices of faculty, staff, and students are necessary. These voices will help the HECC arrive at decisions that are informed by those most directly impacted, improving the buy in of their represented constituencies.

The addition of a graduate student commissioner is also essential because graduate students occupy a unique position in our public universities. They are not only students, but also frontline teachers and researchers through their work as graduate teaching and research assistants. The creation of a graduate student commissioner will allow the HECC to make well informed decisions that are responsive to the experiences of graduate students.

Please pass HB 3280 to give Oregon's faculty, staff, and students full voices on the Higher Education Coordinating Commission. Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Dreiling', written over a light blue rectangular background.

Michael Dreiling  
President, AAUP-Oregon