

March 11, 2019

Chair Wagner and Senators:

My name is Sylvia Gray and I serve as a history instructor and faculty department chair at Portland Community College.

For many years, I was a part-time faculty member and, as a result, was not eligible for health insurance coverage to care for myself or my family.

Several years later, I was fortunate to be hired to teach full-time at PCC and have been deeply blessed by the security and care of my adequate health insurance. My full-time hiring fixed that problem for me, but not for the part-time faculty members who remain.

Many part-time or adjunct faculty at Oregon's community colleges and public universities today teach enough total hours that they should qualify for health care coverage under current requirements, but the fact that they teach at multiple institutions disallows them from coverage, even though their colleagues that teach the same amount (or less) at one institution receive coverage.

SB 852 builds off the current Oregon Educators Benefit Board system by providing access to coverage under OEBC for part-time faculty who teach more than a half-time course load, whether at one institution or multiple. The program will be administered by OEBC at no cost or administrative burden to the colleges and universities.

I urge you to pass Senate Bill 852 to address the unsafe and unfair health benefits disparity for part-time faculty members across Oregon. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sylvia Gray

History Instructor and Faculty Department Chair
Portland Community College, Sylvania Campus