

March 11th, 2019

Chair Wagner, Vice Chair Thomsen, and members of the committee:

My name is Sarah Chivers. I'm an adjunct instructor currently teaching at Chemeketa Community College and Portland State University, although some quarters I have juggled adjunct teaching at up to four regional institutions between Oregon and Washington. I have a PhD with 15 years of experience teaching and conducting sociology research, some of which has appeared before the Oregon State Legislature (The State of Black Oregon, for example). I work full time hours, and I receive no benefits at any of the colleges I am employed at. I've been purchasing my own health insurance through the exchange since December of 2018. Before that, I was not insured.

This past August late one evening, I was washing dishes and accidentally sliced my hand open on a glass. It required seven stitches and a tetanus shot. At that time, I had my two young children with me so I went to the nearest clinic that was open to minimize the expense (and trauma) of taking my kids to the emergency room. That visit cost me \$500 and I have been paying it off since. I am so fortunate that my injury was not more severe. If it had been, I would have experienced being homeless. A month after I sliced my hand open, my landlord notified me she would be increasing my rent \$150 a month (which was \$1800 a month). This increase almost exceeds what I bring home in pay for my rent, utilities, transportation, and food for my family.

Adjuncts do the same work that full time faculty do, for much, much less. In a good quarter, my take home pay while teaching full time is about \$2500 a month. I am rarely offered summer classes, or regular teaching opportunities, but I still find ways to secure full time teaching appointments. No matter how glowing my teaching evaluations, or how hard I work engaging students in learning outcomes, none of my employers have offered me teaching positions that offer long term job stability. It is heart breaking to put in so much and receive so little back. I feel like I am barely making it. My household is in survival mode. That is why I am here today asking you to please support SB 852.

Thank you for listening.

Most Sincerely,

Sarah A. Chivers
Chemeketa Community College and Portland State University Faculty