



# American Association of University Professors

*Academic Freedom for a Free Society*

May 14, 2019

Joint Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Capitol Construction  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**RE: SB 1049 and amendments**

Dear Co-Chairs Representative Holvey and Senator Girod, 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 more than 6300 members of the American Association of University Professors of Oregon, I ask you to not betray hard-working Oregonians and to reject SB 1049 with the -1 amendments.

Senate Bill 1049 will only further degrade Oregon's underfunded public higher education system by punishing university employees who are instrumental to student success. If we continue on the path of undercutting Oregon's public higher education system, we will fail to achieve its mission as stated in the statutes: to deliver high-quality education, to prepare students for a democratic society and to contribute to the economic, cultural and civic advancement of the state. Years of disinvestment have undermined these aims, as Oregon's rank of 47 among states in funding attests.

Senate Bill 1049 will also undermine the ability of Oregon's colleges and universities to recruit and retain diverse faculty and academic professionals, key to the academic success of our ever-growing population of students of color. The bill's proposal to redirect a portion of the state employees' Individual Account Program (IAP) to pay down the PERS' unfunded liability will endanger the retirement security of tens of thousands of working Oregonians.

For all of these reasons, we urge you not to support SB 1049 and the amendments. Choose instead solutions that do not harm Oregon's workforce and those they serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ramin".

Ramin Farahmandpur  
Vice-President for Political Action  
AAUP Oregon