



March 3, 2021

Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Thomsen, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the over 16,000 workers AFT-Oregon represents in our state's universities, community colleges, and K-12 schools, I thank you for the opportunity to share AFT-Oregon's strong support of SB 580.

Particularly for AFT Oregon's classified staff working on the frontlines in our K-12 schools, it is vital that conversations about caseload happen at the local level. SB 580 will simply ensure that this conversation happens and encourage all parties to think about ways that large class sizes and caseloads can be managed to ensure our students succeed.

As education professionals, we know that large class sizes and caseloads can have significant impacts on student's learning, and, as the COVID-19 pandemic has illuminated, can pose safety concerns. SB 580 will guarantee that these important considerations get the time they deserve in local conversations between educators and school districts.

On behalf of our members, I respectfully urge your "aye" vote for SB 580.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jaime Rodriguez'.

Jaime Rodriguez  
AFT-Oregon President