



ASSOCIATION OF OREGON FACULTIES

March 15, 2021

To: Sentae Committee on Education

Re: SB 712 – Support

Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Thomsen and members of the committee,

The Association of Oregon Faculties (AOF) is an independent, non-union based organization representing faculty from Oregon's seven public universities. AOF seeks to protect and improve the working environment and fair compensation for Oregon university faculty and to help ensure that the Oregon University System gets adequate funding in the state appropriations process.

SB 712 would simply add voting rights to the current 5 ex-officio members of the HECC for students, faculty and staff. It would also add one position for a graduate student on the HECC, who would offer a unique perspective that is not currently represented on the HECC and is an important voice to be heard in state higher education discussions. *Students, faculty and staff have had voting rights on institutional boards since their inception and the boards have functioned, the sky has not fallen.* It's time to extend the same voting rights others on the HECC enjoy and provide equity to students, faculty, and staff on the HECC.

We encourage you to create equity in voting rights and to pass this very important bill, **please vote yes on SB 712.**

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Bakalinsky". The signature is stylized with a wavy, cursive-like flow.

Alan Bakalinsky, President,
On behalf of the Board,
Association of Oregon Faculties

Association of Oregon Faculties, 740 Oakway Circle, Ashland, OR 97520

<http://oregonfaculties.org>