



# American Association of University Professors

*Academic Freedom for a Free Society*

May 3, 2021

Chair Dembrow  
Members of the Senate Committee on Education  
Oregon State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

## **Re: House Bill 2542-A Support**

Chair Dembrow, Vice Chair Thomsen, and members of the Committee,

On behalf of the more than 6300 members of the American Association of University Professors in Oregon, our collective bargaining chapters at the University of Oregon, Portland State University, Oregon State University, and Oregon Institute of Technology, and our faculty members across Oregon, I ask that you **please support HB 2542-A**.

This Bill, supported by the Oregon Student Association, is clear and smart legislation ensuring we find multiple ways to support affordable tuition by addressing the adjacent growth in mandatory fees as tuition continually increases. Specifically, HB 2542-A will create statewide student access to mandatory fees, a step towards equity across the State for our students. In addition, we all need institutional accountability, transparency, and fiscal responsibility across all our institutions.

**Please pass HB 2542-A.** At my home institution, our student government has proven to be exemplars of transparency, accountability, and fiscal responsibility that centers our most vulnerable students at this moment (Inside Higher Ed [coverage](#) of UO ASUO and athletic fees<sup>1</sup>). Many faculty here are incredibly proud of our exemplar students running government so well. And as we see, a more transparent system can work as an important tool towards both affordable and equitable costs of higher education in our State.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Avinnash P. Tiwari'.

Avinnash P. Tiwari  
VP Politics, AAUP-Oregon

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2021/02/22/u-oregon-student-government-wants-stop-payments-athletics>