



American Association of University Professors

Academic Freedom for a Free Society

May 10, 2021

Chairs Senator Frederick and Representative McLain
Members of the Ways and Means Sub-Committee on Education
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: House Bill 5528—Support

Chairs Frederick and McLain, 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 5528**.

I also am writing on behalf of my local institution, our faculty union, United Academics at the University of Oregon and even more specifically, on behalf of the young people moving through my classrooms. Over this current academic year, I can say with certainty many are on the fringes; they may or may not come back to the UO. They may or may not have a safe place to live; they may or may not have enough to eat today. And for some, they, or someone they love, may or may not suffer the consequences of premature death. And yet they study, and they work, and they try to do more than survive. It has been the hardest year of “teaching” I’ve ever experienced.

We educators have our work cut out for us. The impact of this last year will not be short-term on students’ chances at surviving and thriving in Higher Education. We and our students can dig into work knowing that our State is doing the best it can to serve us. This is why we are asking you to **support the Public University Support Fund PUSF at \$900 Million** and the Community College Support Fund at \$702 Million for 2021-2023. It means raising the OR Opportunity Grants to \$290 Million. It also means **passing SB 551/HB 3007 in order to fund “PT” Faculty Health Care**; fund Student Navigators on each of the 24 campuses (HB 2835) and to do a listening process for Higher Ed so that all voices are heard. BIPOC students and families and small and rural schools **must be centered** into our work.

Please pass HB 5528.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Avinnash P. Tiwari
Vice-President Politics, AAUP-Oregon; Politics Chair, UAOU AAUP-AFT Local 3209
Instructor, ENG and Acting Director, BLST