

To: House Committee on Education
From: William Mahoney-Watson
Date: February 18, 2021
Re: Support for House Bill 3007

Chair Alonso Leon and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of my fellow part-time faculty, I respectfully urge your support for House Bill 3007. I have taught web design part-time at Portland Community College since 2012. It's difficult to watch some of my hardest working colleagues denied healthcare eligibility simply because they teach at two or more public institutions in Oregon.

Most part-time faculty, who teach the majority of classes in Oregon's colleges, struggle each year to become eligible for healthcare the following year. We count our course load carefully, inching towards eligibility each quarter. If we finally reach the required course load, and if our classes aren't canceled, we breathe a huge sigh of relief.

Unfortunately a small subset of part-time faculty can never reach eligibility, even though they teach enough classes for the same employer, the State of Oregon. They have the misfortune of teaching at more than one public institution. And though they shuttle back and forth between campuses, they cannot become eligible for healthcare no matter how many classes they teach.

It's time to rectify this cruel omission, especially during a pandemic. I urge your support of House Bill 3007.

Sincerely,
/signed/
William Mahoney-Watson