

Dear Chair Alonso Leon, Vice-Chair Neron, Vice-Chair Weber, and members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Odalis Aguilar Aguilar and I am a third year student at the University of Oregon triple majoring in History, Latin American Studies, and Spanish. I also sit on the Executive Committee for the Associated Students of the University of Oregon (ASUO). I am. Although I am unable to testify in person today due to other responsibilities, I am writing to you today in the middle of one of my classes to advocate for a “Yes” vote on HB 3007, which would provide that part-time faculty members at public institutions of higher education who qualify for health care benefits will pay 10 percent of insurance premiums for employee coverage.

A “Yes” vote on HB 3007 would provide the part-time faculty members at public institutions of higher education who qualify for health care benefits to pay 10 percent of insurance premiums for employee coverage. Students need professors to support them, but we cannot expect employees to perform their jobs well when they are left without any support for their overall wellbeing. I care deeply about my professors and have cultivated great relationships with and I believe that they deserve access to health care benefits.

As someone who has been uninsured before, I know how it feels like to have to neglect aspects of my health because I could not afford it. This is something no one should go through because part-time workers also deserve to have their health issues. When you have access to health care, you not only are able to perform better at your job, but also in your overall life. Access to health care services also helps retain and attract faculty to keep their jobs and continue to support students on campuses.

While educators are important in helping students like me succeed in my college education, so are the faculty that continuously provides support to students and ensures that we have the tools we need outside the classroom to succeed.

Thank you for your time and I urge the committee to vote “Yes” on HB 3007.

Respectfully,

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