



## ASSOCIATION OF OREGON FACULTIES

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February 22, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Education  
Re: SB 551 – Support

Chair Alonso Leon, Vice-Chairs Neron, Weber 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's public Universities get adequate funding in the state appropriations process.

Increasingly, more and more courses in Oregon's higher educational system are being taught by part-time adjunct faculty, as the state's universities respond to years of underfunding in their constant need to continue serving our students. As a result, part-time faculty often teach at several institutions during the same term, working many hours a day in jobs with almost no benefits because they do not teach enough at any single institution to qualify. Senate Bill 551 will help these hardworking faculty members by allowing them to aggregate their hours at various institutions in order to be eligible for health care coverage. It will ensure that those part-time faculty are not forced to choose between purchasing health care and other basic needs. Naturally, AOF will continue its efforts to encourage the universities to hire faculty as full-time employees, but until that happy day arrives, efforts like SB 551 are vital to helping these faculty members serve our students in the best way possible.

We encourage you to pass this very important bill, **please vote yes on SB 551**.  
Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

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

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

<http://oregonfaculties.org>