



Date: February 22, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Education

Re: OEA support for SB 551, Part-Time Faculty Health Care

Chair Dembrow and members of the committee,

The Oregon Education Association represents 41,000 educators across Oregon, including over 4,000 employees at 10 of Oregon's 17 Community Colleges.

Part-time faculty play a critical role in our higher education system. One that has grown over time. In 1975, 24% of faculty system wide (including graduate student employees) were part-time. Today, in our community colleges, part-time faculty make up 69% of the teaching ranks. There are all kinds of reasons given, and perspectives as to why this is the case, but the bottom line is that these critical public employees – many of whom work well over full-time – do not receive employer provided health care.

SB 551 would fix this. It takes a list – that is already compiled for retirement benefit purposes – of part-time faculty who work over 600 hours at different institutions over the course of a year, and then would provide them with the public employee health care they deserve. The state would cover 90% of the premium, while the employee covers 10%.

It is long past time we provide this critical benefit to part-time faculty.

Please pass SB 551 out of committee with a "do pass" recommendation.

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