



February 24, 2021

Chair Holvey, Vice-Chairs Grayber & Bonham, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the over 16,000 workers AFT-Oregon represents in our state's universities, community colleges, and K-12 schools, I thank you for the opportunity to share AFT-Oregon's concerns about HB 2043.

I would like to note that AFT-Oregon is supportive of the efforts to remove certain insurance considerations, like use of credit scores, that result in inequitable insurance costs to low-income Oregonians and people of color.

Unfortunately, this bill as drafted would remove the ability for organizations, like AFT, to offer discounts and other insurance incentives as part of their membership in AFT or other associations related to their profession. These cost savings are important for the hardworking educators that have been serving students across Oregon throughout this pandemic. As an organization, we fundamentally believe that Oregon should be enacting policy and making investments that further the profession and remove burdens on educators. For this reason, we must oppose HB 2043 in its current form.

Thank you for your consideration of our feedback on this piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jaime Rodriguez'.

Jaime Rodriguez
AFT-Oregon President