



March 4, 2021

Chair Alonso Leon, Vice-Chairs Neron and Weber, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Oregon, we express our strong support for House Bill 2590.

While many laudable efforts have been initiated to assess student success at the K - 12 level, there have not been commensurate efforts to examine student success at the post-secondary level. This absence has been particularly salient for underrepresented students.

It is, of course, true that many post-secondary institutions have studied these issues from the perspective of their own institutions and have followed these studies up with much needed action. However, it is critical to undertake a statewide approach and focus on these issues with a broader, more well-informed lens.

We applaud the provisions in HB 2590 that require the Task Force members to visit public post-secondary schools in Oregon and to consult with populations that are underrepresented in the student bodies of these educational institutions. These are the voices that need to be heard and respected. They have lived the experience of being a member of an underrepresented population. They can best advise the Task Force of the down-to-earth, practical realities of their experiences, which will in turn generate ideas and policies that will most effectively address their needs.

Should AAUW of OR be able to provide any assistance to the Task Force, we shall certainly do so.

We look forward to the legislative proposals that may arise from the action of the Task Force on Student Success for Underrepresented Students and thank in advance those members of the Task Force, and the stakeholders they will be consulting with, for fostering the success for all students at the post-secondary level.

Respectfully,

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