



## **OCCA TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1522**

Chair Dembrow, members of the Committee, for the record, I'm John Wykoff, deputy director for the Oregon Community College Association. My testimony today is in support of 1522 and specifically the addition of some targeted adjustments to SB 511, which passed in the 2021 Legislative Session. These changes were originally introduced in the -3 amendments.

First, I'd like to thank Senator Dembrow and Representative Susan McLain for their leadership in passing SB 551. That legislation was an important step in providing health insurance to faculty who, for example, may work at multiple post-secondary institutions but not enough at any one institution to qualify for paid healthcare. OCCA supported that legislation, and we support these modest changes that will make the program easier to administer and will provide more certainty to faculty who are receiving healthcare through SB 551.

The amendment makes two simple changes to current legislation. Currently, the law requires institutions to determine eligibility based on a faculty member working at least .5 FTE in at least three of the last four terms. The first change would simply have colleges and universities use an average of the FTE over the last three of four terms. This change would provide greater certainty for faculty who sometimes teach more courses in the fall term, when enrollment at colleges is usually at its highest and could even be above .5 FTE, but then might teach well below .5 FTE in spring term when colleges usually see comparatively lower enrollment. This could lead to a disruption in coverage where using an average would not.

The second change would modify the current semi-annual determination of eligibility that institutions must conduct to an annual determination. Annual determination is consistent with how health insurance plans operate and will cut the administrative burden for colleges. We believe this change will benefit faculty and the institutions both.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today and for your continued work on this important issue. We urge support for 1522.