



# American Association of University Professors

*Academic Freedom for a Free Society*

February 22, 2022

Representative Alonso Leon, Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Education  
Oregon State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Senate Bill 1572A - Support

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

On behalf of the more than 6300 members of the American Association of University Professors in Oregon, our collective bargaining chapters at the University of Oregon, Portland State University, Oregon State University, and Oregon Institute of Technology, and our faculty members across Oregon, I ask that you please support SB 1572-A.

The U.S. Department of Education waived some Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program rules until October of 2022. Time is of the essence to pass SB 1572 which provides technical fixes to 2021 HB 3255 which provides many college and university faculty access to student loan forgiveness.

SB 1572-A provides specific guidance as to which higher education employers the bill's provisions apply to, and a standard multiplier for calculating hours of employment relative to hours in the classroom. Based on these calculations, the bill directs employers to use 30 hours per week as the basis for full-time certification. By making these provisions retroactive to the effective date of HB 3255, SB 1572-A will enable the maximum possible number of faculty eligible for federal student loan forgiveness.

We look forward to working with you and our partners to ascertain whether additional clarity is needed to enable employers to apply the hour multiplier retroactively. Since PSLF requires 10 years of full time public service employment, this clarification may be critical for PSLF eligibility.

Additionally, we look forward to the Legislature continuing to work on the issues addressed in the base language of SB 1572-A. Sexual harassment, dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking are unfortunately pervasive in higher education, and have an enormous impact on students, faculty, and staff. Many of our members have long worked passionately to remedy these systemic issues.

We urge you to please pass SB 1572-A.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Shay". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Steve Shay  
President, AAUP-Oregon