



American Association of University Professors

Academic Freedom for a Free Society

February 6, 2023

Representative Nosse, Chair

Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

Oregon State Capitol

Salem, OR 97301

Re: House Bill 2485 - Support

Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Goodwin, Nelson, and members of the Committee,

On behalf of the more than 6,300 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 HB 2485. This investment would not only support the students, staff, and faculty at PSU, but it will also produce workers who will help tackle some of the most pressing issues facing our state today.

On the issues of homelessness, mental health, and addiction, Oregon is in a state of crisis, and social workers are crucial to providing a lifeline to Oregonians in need of support. By investing in the School of Social Work at Portland State University, the next generation of social workers will be equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary to make a positive impact on the lives of the most at-risk populations in our communities.

Moreover, Portland State University is a crucial institution in the city of Portland and the state of Oregon, providing access to higher education and job opportunities to students from diverse backgrounds. Investing in the School of Social Work at Portland State University would not only support the university, but also the city and state as a whole, by contributing to the creation of a more educated, diverse, and skilled workforce.

In conclusion, this investment in Portland State University's School of Social Work is a commitment to improving the lives of our most vulnerable populations, and it will pay further dividends in the form of a more socially responsible and engaged workforce. Therefore, we



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strongly urge you to support this bill and invest in the School of Social Work at Portland State University.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Steve Shay'.

Steve Shay
President, AAUP Oregon