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82nd Oregon Legislative Assembly—2023 Regular Session
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St NE
Salem OR 97301

Re: SB416 In Support

Dear Senator Dembrow, Representative Hudson, and Legislative Members:

In my world, I am known as a “freeway flier.” I work at multiple educational institutions to piece together a self-supporting earning potential. Currently, I am employed at Mt. Hood Community College and Clackamas Community College.

I specialize in teaching learners of English metals trades in welding and machine tool technology. I support learners of English across 17 separate Career Technical classes in the metals trades. Through this work experience, I gained expertise in the field of Occupational Safety and Health. I teach Industrial Safety at both community colleges.

These classes are exhilarating. My work impacts economic stability for students displaced from work or their homelands due to no fault of their own. The programs I work in and the impact of my teaching is directly observable in short order. I am honored to support the greater community by ensuring that workers are knowledgeable, informed, and aware of their workplace safety rights and responsibilities.

To be eligible for these assignments, I must possess a Master’s degree just like my full-time counterparts. I am expected to keep current with the art of teaching through participation in ongoing professional development activities as are my full-time counterparts. I must also maintain my trainer status with the federal office of Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the American Red Cross, which are external requirements to that of the colleges.

My full-time counterparts have secured funding for professional development. They are allowed “release time” to develop materials in order to present at conferences and industry workshops. I do not enjoy this support. More to the point, I must self-pay to attend the conferences I am expected to participate in to keep myself up to date. And I am not compensated for my time at these conferences and other professional development activities.

At one of the colleges I am paid at the top tier for part-time faculty. This amount is 80% below that of the entry-level rate for a new full-time faculty member. In addition, I must spend my personal funds in

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order to maintain my professional standing, which further reduces my take home pay. The cost to maintain my professional standing runs between \$3,000- \$5,000 a year.

I know that other part-time advocates in support of SB4156 have mentioned the impact of health care, dental and vision care as we have needed to pay for those ourselves.

The wage disparity between full-time and part-time professionals is significant and unfair. The stereotype of a retired expert teaching a class or two at the local community college is simply not today's reality. The part-time educators in Oregon are a highly educated and professional class of employees who represent the state's higher education institutions and the state of Oregon itself in the very best light. Please, show your understanding and respect by supporting SB 416.

Sincerely,

Lisa Hillyard