



American Association of University Professors

Academic Freedom for a Free Society

Senator Dembrow, Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Education
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

February 6, 2024

Re: Senate Bill 1592 - Support

Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Weber, 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 in advocacy chapters across Oregon, we urge you to support SB 1592.

Our nation is grappling with a mental health crisis, and in our state, this crisis manifests itself in ever-increasing numbers of Oregonians succumbing to addiction, self-harm, and homelessness. Due to this increased need for mental health professionals in our state, it is sensible for the legislature to approve investments into programs that will train a new generation of Oregonians to provide this care.

Furthermore, by providing these funds to Oregon's Technical and Regional Universities and Portland State, the legislature will be directing funds to train mental health care professionals in the communities that are in the greatest need of this support while also helping these five institutions to make these programs more accessible to both rural and urban Oregonians.

Therefore, SB 1592 is a prudent long-term investment to address an issue that has no quick or easy solution. This is a clear benefit to all residents in this state, and we urge you to support this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Victor Reyes
Executive Director of AAUP Oregon