



American Association of University Professors

Academic Freedom for a Free Society

January 30, 2025

Representative Hudson, Chair

Members of the House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development

Re: House Bill HB 2675 – Support

Chair Hudson, Vice-Chairs Fragala and Harbick, and members of the committee:

My name is Jintai Wang, and I am an assistant professor of civil engineering at Oregon Institute of Technology (OIT), as well as a member of the Oregon Tech - American Association of University Professors (OT-AAUP). I am writing on behalf of the Oregon State Conference of the AAUP to express my strong support for HB 2675.

Currently, faculty, staff, and student parents at OIT struggle to balance work and academic responsibilities due to the lack of accessible and affordable after-school programs. This creates undue stress for parents, often forcing them to make difficult choices between their careers and their children's well-being. HB 2675 directly addresses this issue by providing essential funding for an after-school program. This investment in our community will not only support working and studying parents but also enhance the academic success of our students, reduce turnover among faculty and staff, and contribute to a stronger, more stable university environment.

As a proud father of a 3-year-old, I have personally experienced the struggles of securing reliable childcare. In 2021, my family relocated across the country for my dream job at OIT when our son was just four months old. We were placed on multiple waitlists for childcare programs and had to wait nearly a year before securing a spot. As a single-income family, the cost of childcare consumed over 20% of our income, creating significant financial strain. An after-school program would greatly benefit faculty, staff, and student families like ours.

I have also witnessed my colleagues and students struggle with uncertainty regarding their children's after-school care. Some have had to leave meetings or classes early, reduce their coursework, or even reconsider their career and educational goals due to these challenges. HB 2675 offers a solution that would provide much-needed relief and stability for these families.

I strongly urge you to support this bill and ensure its passage to benefit the OIT community and beyond. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jintai Wang, Ph.D., P.E. (CA, TX)

Assistant Professor, Department of Civil Engineering

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OT-AAUP Chapter