



American Association of University Professors

Academic Freedom for a Free Society

February 4, 2025

House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development

Re: House Bill HB 2550 – Support

Chair Hudson, Vice-Chairs Fragala and Harbick, 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 HB 2550.

Access to higher education is becoming increasingly difficult in our state due to the rising costs of an education. The expansion in access to the Oregon Promise grant outlined in HB 2550 will ensure that more Oregonians than ever before will have higher education within their reach. Such expanded access means that more non-traditional students will be able to return to the classroom, begin or complete their educational aspirations, and use their education to improve their lives and those of their families and their communities.

Furthermore, the inclusion of nursing degrees will, in the long run, help [Oregon's hospitals return to safe staffing levels](#) and fulfill the promise of [HB 2697 \(2023\)](#). With an opioid epidemic and mental health crisis gripping our state, we need creative solutions such as this to ensure that we can train the workforce our state needs to navigate these challenges in the future.

Please support HB 2550.

Victor Reyes
Executive Director, AAUP Oregon