



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 2586 – 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 2586.

Asylum seekers flee the precarity and uncertainty of their home nations and come to the United States because they know that this nation has both safety and opportunity in abundance. Oregon has committed to protecting and supporting all residents, regardless of status, and this includes asylum seekers.

HB 2586 will help put asylum seekers on a path to self-sufficiency by reducing the increased financial burden that out-of-state tuition would create for them. According to [the Immigration Research Initiative](#), a non-partisan think tank studying immigration in the United States, newly immigrated individuals make about \$21,000 per year, so for many asylum-seeking students hoping to attain a university education, any additional financial barrier may become insurmountable with such limited funds.

Higher education is a vital opportunity to develop the skills and connections one needs to establish a lucrative and fulfilling career. This is particularly true for asylum-seekers trying to rebuild their lives after being forced to flee their home countries. By passing HB 2586, we will be demonstrating the values that truly make our nation great: compassion, diversity, and a commitment to education. Please support HB 2586.

Thank you for your consideration.

Victor Reyes
Executive Director, AAUP Oregon