

Alison Lutz HB2669 Testimony
February 06, 2025

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

For the record, my name is Alison Lutz and I am a part-time faculty member at Chemeketa Community College where I've worked since 2011, Portland State University since 2021, and Clark College in Vancouver, WA since 2024. Even though I am labeled as "part-time", I teach sometimes more than a full time class load, teaching is my main source of income, and I am dedicated to this work and to my students.

At Chemeketa, a part-time faculty member is currently paid 65% of what a full-time member is paid in wages. 65% is not an accurate reflection of my work compared to my full-time colleagues. You can ask my full-time colleagues and they would agree. When I am assigned a class, I receive notification and the rest is up to me: constructing the syllabus, course design, course development, assignment development, sourcing course materials, not to mention student interaction, classroom prep, feedback, grading, letters of recommendation, etc, etc. I teach the same classes, have the same qualifications, receive excellent evaluations, but I get paid less. Our students receive the same credits, why don't I get the same pay?

Institutions like Chemeketa and PSU, use part-time faculty to save costs, at a disservice to students. I have to teach at 3-4 institutions to make ends meet. I'm unable to provide my students the adequate attention they need, as I have to run out of my classroom to drive to my next job.

Because I have to work at multiple institutions to make ends meet, I spent the last year looking for other part-time openings. Recently, I was offered a job at Mount Hood Community College. Unfortunately, I had to decline that offer so that I could take another offer at Clark College in Vancouver, Washington. I took the Clark College job over MHCC because Clark paid more. In fact, at Clark, I make \$800 more per class than I do at Chemeketa where I've been teaching for more than 13 years.

And I'm not the only Oregonian looking to Washington for higher wages. At a recent department meeting, I recognized two other Chemeketa part-time faculty who are transitioning over to Clark. This situation is real.

Part-time faculty deserve equal pay for equal work. The future of Oregon higher ed depends on it. I urge you to support HB 2669. Thank you.



Alison Lutz
Portland, OR
OEA member, Chemeketa Community College