



# American Association of University Professors

*Academic Freedom for a Free Society*

February 13, 2025

House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development

Re: House Bill HB 3185 – 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 3185.

Oregon's non-profit sector makes essential contributions to every aspect of life in our state, enriching the economy, the community, and the social and cultural well-being of all Oregon's residents, rural and urban. However, [a 2024 report by the Nonprofit Association of Oregon](#) found that 23% of Oregon's non-profits have difficulty recruiting entry- and mid-level employees. By passing HB 3185, our legislature would help ensure that these vital organizations are better staffed by connecting university students at Portland State and Eastern Oregon University to entry-level positions at nonprofits working on issues that deeply affect our state: agriculture, behavioral health, economic development, food and housing insecurity, and education.

Furthermore, this innovative bill will benefit the students that participate in this program by giving them compensated work experience and reducing their tuition in recognition of their service to their community. These incentives are precisely what this sector of our workforce needs to ensure that the next generation of Oregonians see the important opportunities and fulfilling work that is available to them when they pursue a career in the nonprofit sector. Therefore, this bill creates a virtuous cycle that enriches not just individual students but their communities and the state writ large, and such positive impact is worthy of your support.

Please support HB 3185. Thank you for your consideration.

Victor Reyes  
Executive Director, AAUP Oregon