



American Association of University Professors

Academic Freedom for a Free Society

February 25, 2025

House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development

Re: House Bill HB 3129 – 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 3129.

Our nation is grappling with a mental health crisis, and in our state, this crisis manifests itself in ever-increasing numbers of Oregonians succumbing to addiction, self-harm, and homelessness. Due to this increased need for mental health professionals in our state, it is sensible for the legislature to approve investments into programs that will train a new generation of Oregonians to provide this care. In addition, the focus on culturally responsive behavioral health services will ensure that as our state becomes increasingly diverse, there will be mental health resources available to support all Oregonians.

Passage of this bill will build off of the existing investment that our legislature committed to when SB 1592 was passed in the 2024 legislative session. By creating a dedicated fund that all public universities and community colleges can access, the legislature will ensure these programs are even more accessible to both rural and urban Oregonians living in the communities that are in the greatest need of improved access to mental health resources.

Therefore, HB 3129 is a prudent long-term investment to address an issue that has no quick or easy solution. This is a clear benefit to all residents in this state, and we urge you to support this legislation.

Please support HB 3129. Thank you for your consideration.

Victor Reyes
Executive Director, AAUP Oregon