



American Association of University Professors

Academic Freedom for a Free Society

March 11, 2025

House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development

Re: House Bill HB 2421 -3 amendments – 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 at Lewis and Clark, Linfield, Pacific and Willamette Universities, we urge you to support HB 2421 with the -3 amendments.

As a state, it is in our best interest to ensure that prospective students interested in attending our universities and community colleges encounter minimal barriers to attendance. This begins with the application process, which can be expensive and arduous when students are forced to apply to each institution individually.

Now that this program has been established, HB 2421 with the -3 amendments would expand the direct access program to Oregon's private institutions. Such an expansion would ensure that our residents have greater choice in finding the institution that best meets their academic aspirations and individual needs. Such an expansion will particularly benefit first generation applicants as well as students who come from low-income or underserved populations, including rural Oregonians.

Finally, by reducing barriers to access, Oregon's residents are more likely to stay in their state and even in their communities while they pursue their academic and professional goals, thereby reducing the brain drain that comes when our residents seek opportunities in other states.

Please support HB 2421 with the -3 amendments. Thank you for your consideration.

Victor Reyes
Executive Director, AAUP Oregon