



American Association of University Professors

Academic Freedom for a Free Society

March 17, 2025

Senate Committee on Education

Re: House Bill SB 977– Support

Chair Frederick, Vice Chair Weber, 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 Tech, and our faculty members in advocacy chapters across Oregon, we urge you to support SB 977.

This bill would make the higher education goals of students with intellectual or developmental disabilities more attainable by ensuring that this group of students has access to a more inclusive curriculum, individualized support, and career pathways. Such access can be transformative for these students and their families, enabling students with intellectual or developmental disabilities to have greater independence and better opportunities to contribute to their families, their communities, and their state.

Furthermore, Portland State University's Career and Community Studies program is a unique and important program that has been put on pause by PSU's administration and is at risk of closure without dedicated funds. This vital program cannot be allowed to shutter simply because the administration will not support it, and it is therefore the responsibility of our legislature to fund the important work that these educators do to support students with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Please support SB 977. Thank you for your consideration.

Victor Reyes
Executive Director, AAUP Oregon