



American Association of University Professors

Academic Freedom for a Free Society

March 26, 2025

Senate Committee on Education

Re: House Bill SB 231 – Support

Chair Frederick, Vice Chair Weber, and members of the committee:

On behalf of the more than 6,300 faculty represented by 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 231.

As our climate continues to change, our risk for catastrophic natural disasters like wildfires, floods, and intense snow and ice storms will continue to grow. Our state also is at risk for uncontrollable natural hazards like earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. It is therefore prudent for our legislature to support SB 231, which will ensure that post-secondary educational institutions have a well-developed and well-funded plan to keep Oregon's students, staff, and faculty safe in the event of a catastrophic natural disaster.

At this critical time when federal funding is in jeopardy and our state's risk of natural catastrophes continues to grow, we must not expect that the federal government will serve a meaningful role in any recovery efforts that Oregon's residents may require after a natural disaster. As such, our legislature must pursue every opportunity to help our state be self-sufficient in the face of calamity, and passage of SB 231 is one meaningful step towards that goal.

Please support SB 231. Thank you for your consideration.

Victor Reyes
Executive Director, AAUP Oregon