

Date: April 2nd, 2025
To: Senate Committee on Education
From: American Federation of Teachers – Oregon
Re: Oppose SB 5

Chair Frederick, Vice Chair Weber and members of the Senate Education Committee,

AFT-Oregon represents over 18,000 education workers across Oregon. Within our 27 workplace unions are the labor organizations representing academic faculty at University of Oregon, Oregon State University, Oregon Institute of Technology, Eastern Oregon University, Western Oregon University, Portland State University, Columbia Gorge Community College, Portland Community College, Oregon Coast Community College, and Southwestern Oregon Community College.

On behalf of our members statewide, we strongly urge you to oppose SB 5.

Faculty are hired in a rigorous, oftentimes extremely detail oriented process, which already include minimum qualifications that they meet or exceed. The quality of Oregon's higher education instructional workforce is already top-notch: this will not improve teaching, learning, research, or the hiring process at all.

In fact, this bill is troubling, as an institutional board does not consist of academic faculty experts nor colleagues best suited to assess their peers. This effectively diminishes shared governance of the hiring committees, departments, and professionals who currently hire fellow faculty members. Additionally, this would potentially encroach upon academic freedom, with board members dictating standards instead of faculty, which has been the best practice for nearly a century.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if there are any questions. SB 5 should not advance in Oregon.

Signed,



Andrea Haverkamp, PhD.
AFT-Oregon, Political and Legislative Organizer
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