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Co-chairs Sen. Sollman, Rep. Ruiz, and Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education,

AFT-Oregon is a labor federation of 27 workplace local unions across our state in Pre-K, K-12, and Higher Education. Within Oregon's public community college system, we have 7 unions representing classified staff and instructional faculty at Portland Community College, Southwestern Oregon Community College, Columbia Gorge Community College, Oregon Coast Community College, and Lane Community College.

Our thousands of members are the foundation of higher education. Classified staff literally keep the lights on, the classrooms maintained, the campus safe, the technology functional, and operations moving forward. Instructional faculty are essential workers whose expertise, mentorship, and insight change students' lives for the better each day. AFT-Oregon members are vital to our community college system.

In the 2025-2027 Legislative Budget, AFT-Oregon is advocating for a Community College Support Fund (CCSF) increase of \$120 million, to bring overall funding to \$920 million.

An additional investment of \$120M in the Community College Support Fund will ensure Oregon's community colleges remain an affordable entry point to post-secondary education and career training.

Community colleges serve a diverse student population, including first-generation students, working adults, and historically underserved communities. For our members, sustained investment in the CCSF means fair wages, manageable workloads, and the ability to provide students with the high-quality education and support they need to succeed. Chronic underfunding leads to faculty layoffs, reliance on adjunct labor, and reduced course offerings, making strong state investment essential.

Our state needs to protect and uplift higher education now more than ever amidst an uncertain national and global landscape. Higher education has always been a cornerstone of democracy and the beating heart of regional economic resiliency.

Please invest in the CCSF with an additional \$120 million for the sake of our students and communities.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Andrea Haverkamp'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Andrea' and last name 'Haverkamp' clearly visible.

Andrea Haverkamp, Ph.D.
Political and Legislative Organizer
American Federation of Teachers – Oregon