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OR 97219  
or.aft.org

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 University system, we represent together with Oregon AAUP faculty, researchers, instructors, post-docs, graduate employees, and academic professionals at Western Oregon University, Eastern Oregon University, Oregon Institute of Technology, University of Oregon, Oregon State University and Portland State University. All our members' work is in support of strong student learning outcomes and a thriving public education system from cradle to career.

Our thousands of members are the foundation of higher education – the education professionals who teach, grade, mentor, and shape learners' minds. AFT-Oregon members are writing critical grants, obtaining funding to build programs and advance our economic engine, and are a vital asset to our state.

**In the 2025-2027 Legislative Budget, AFT-Oregon is advocating for a Public University Support Fund (PUSF) increase of \$275 million, to bring overall funding to \$1.275 billion.**

An additional investment of \$275 million will ensure that Oregon's public universities are able to serve all students and workers.

Oregon's universities are already stretched thin, attempting to do more than ever with diminishing state funding over the past decade. Our members need stable PUSF funding to protect vital programs and faculty mentors from layoffs and hiring freezes. This increase will help keep tuition in check, protect affordability, and maintain critical wrap around student support services.

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 PUSF with an additional \$275 million to keep us building the future Oregon needs.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads '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