



10228 SW Capitol Hwy • Portland,
OR 97219
or.aft.org

Co-chair Sen. Meek, Vice-Chair McLane, and Members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue:

I am submitting testimony on behalf of AFT-Oregon's leadership to urge you to pass HB 2321, which has a minimal fiscal impact and will set our state up for future success in revenue reform.

AFT-Oregon is a labor federation of 27 workplace local unions, representing over 18,000 education professionals across our state in Pre-K, K-12, and Higher Education. Here's what we do:

- Higher education faculty members and graduate employees are writing cutting edge grants, obtaining funding to build programs and advance our economic engine, and are a vital asset to our state.
- K12 and Community College 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 state. **However, in the 2025-2027 Legislative Budget, a lack of revenue has resulted in *Current Service Level* funding for many state institutions.** Critical statewide programs, including student basic needs and K12 safety initiatives, face uncertain funding futures.

For our communities, sustained investment in education not only means fair wages and manageable workloads, but the ability to provide students with affordable high-quality education and the support they need to succeed. Chronic underfunding leads to classified staff layoffs, reliance on adjunct faculty or part time substitute teachers, and reduced educational programing.

Property tax revenue reform, regarding Measures 5 and 50, is essential for delivering the education system Oregonians deserve, from cradle to career.

Our state needs to protect and uplift education now more than ever amidst an uncertain national and global landscape. Education, and higher education in particular, has always been a cornerstone of democracy and the beating heart of our statewide economy.

We urge the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue to pass HB 2321.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Andrea Haverkamp'.

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