



Date: March 27, 2017

To: Oregon Senate Committee on Education

From: Jennifer Rueda, Community College ESL Instructor and past PTFA President, OEA Member

Re: Support for SB 196

Chair Roblan and Members of the Committee,

As past president (for three years), and co-president for one additional year of the part-time faculty association at Clackamas Community College, I know how hard it is for some part-time educators to find affordable health insurance. I know personally how hard it is to access healthcare. In fact, before the ACA, I could not afford health insurance. Instead I relied on the OHSU and Providence to give a reduced rate. That is, I asked for and applied for a medical "Charity Care: free or reduced rates for care provided to patients with financial hardship."

In addition, although ACA is now the law, some part-timers (adjuncts) still have to come up with a large monthly premium in addition to their rent, mortgage, car payments, and student loans (among other items like credit card payments). Senate Bill 196 would really help my fellow adjunct instructors to have access to health insurance, and therefore healthcare, which, in my mind, should be a right as a human being. Not everyone is able to take the time out of work to come to the capitol to testify so I want to share testimony from another educator who is directly impacted by this legislation.

This testimony from Jerry Loveless has been submitted for the record, and he says:

"I work for both Clackamas and Portland Community Colleges as a Part-Time Sociology Instructor. I have been teaching 5 to 7 courses a term as of late (well over the Full-Time Faculty workload) and still have no health insurance through either workplace. My healthcare premiums just went up at the first of the year from 279 dollars a month to \$326 (this does not include the additional 31 dollars a month I have to pay for dental).

Paying such high out of pocket costs for health insurance leaves me with little additional money to cover my rent, food, clothing, travel costs and other essential items; while I am also trying to attend professional development opportunities and save up for those summer months when I am not working and do not qualify for state aid."

Jerry added that he is "humbly requesting that SB196 be approved to ensure that hard-working part-time faculty, such as myself, are not worrying about meeting their basic healthcare needs and scraping by due to such egregiously high medical costs and limited part-time pay. Please help us remain in good health so we can continue to provide high-quality instruction to our students and serve our respective institutions with pride and fervor, as opposed to feeling exploited, over-worked and unwell."

I second this request and urge you to support SB 196. Thank you for your time.