



American Association of University Professors

Academic Freedom for a Free Society

March 28, 2017

Chair Arnie Roblan
Members of the Senate Committee on Education
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Senate Bill 196 – Support

Chair Roblan, Vice Chair Dennis Linthicum, and members of the Committee,

On behalf of the more than 3400 members of the American Association of University Professors in Oregon, our collective bargaining faculty chapters at the University of Oregon and Portland State University, and our faculty members across Oregon, I ask that you **please support SB 196**.

Institutions of higher education, both public universities and community colleges, have increasingly come to depend on the use of adjunct and part-time faculty as a response to Oregon's years of underfunding of the university system, yet constant need to continue serving students. Because of this practice, many part-time faculty must piece together work at multiple institutions, often traveling between two or three locations in a day at times, in order to cobble together enough work to make a living. These faculty are just as highly trained and hard working as any other university or community college instructors, but don't have enough hours at any one institution to qualify for most benefits, including health care coverage, although they would qualify if their total hours happened to be at one institution. This is in contrast to faculty teaching a similar number of total hours, but at one institution. This can lead to part-time faculty being forced to choose between purchasing health care and supporting the very basic needs of their families.

SB 196 would help to remedy this inequitable situation by letting part-time and adjunct faculty combine their hours at various institutions for the purpose of determining whether they can qualify for health care coverage. Good policy like SB 196 is vital to helping these faculty members serve our students in the best way possible.

Please pass SB 196 to address this serious and unfair situation.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'José Padín'.

José Padín, Ph.D.
President, AAUP-Oregon