

Senator Michael Dembrow
District 23



503-986-1723
S-407

Oregon State Senate

4/13/2017

To: Senate Committee on Education

RE: Senate Bill 196 with the -1 Amendment

Chair Roblan and members of the committee,

I'm writing today to ask your support to move the -1 amendment into SB 196 and vote the bill out of committee to Joint W&M.

When the legislature passed HB 2557 in 2009, creating the statute that this legislation amends, it was always my hope that we would eventually make this a paid benefit that would be available to this group of part-time faculty who are putting together their course load across multiple institutions but don't meet eligibility requirements for benefits at any one of their employers. SB 196 moves us closer to the reality of providing health insurance to these faculty members, without requiring the institutions to share in the cost or do any additional HR legwork.

The -1 amendment addresses most of the concerns that we heard from stakeholders about the introduced version of the bill. It removes the HECC from the bill entirely, and will not require interaction between institutions and the HECC about human resources policies. Instead, the bill directs OEGB to administer the health care benefits directly and provides them with rulemaking authority to determine the best way to implement this legislation. That rulemaking process would of course include input from the institutions.

The amendment also postpones the availability of benefits until September 1, 2019. This allows OEGB the time to complete rulemaking and to work through any potential kinks in implementation for a smooth roll-out.

I believe that we've found the simplest, most elegant approach to providing health insurance to this population by using the existing statutory methodology to calculate eligibility. I urge your support of SB 196 with the -1 amendment.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Dembrow", written in a cursive style.

Michael Dembrow
State Senator, District 23