

2023 AFT-OREGON

# LEGISLATIVE REPORT







AFT-Oregon lobbying with Representative Ricki Ruiz (left) for regional university bridge funding

This year's legislative session ran from January to June 2023. It was filled with inspiring moments of AFT-Oregon members taking action. Dozens of members attended Lobby Day in February to advocate for our top priority bills. We came out in force to testify to the legislature in support of higher ed policy, participate in legislative policy discussions, knock on office doors, and organize bottom up to support issues important to *all* of our communities - K-12, Higher Education, and our common Social Good. AFT-Oregon worked hard to pass a strong portfolio of bills despite the 6-week Republican walkout in the Oregon Senate. We are proud to work in coalition with Oregon AAUP, Oregon School Employees Association, Oregon Students Association, SEIU 503, Oregon AFL-CIO, and supported fellow AFT affiliates Oregon Nurses Association and Oregon Federation of Nursing and Health Professionals.

## EDUCATION FUNDING

Funding for education, under the advocacy of labor unions, community activists, and Gov. Kotek, remains strong thanks to legislative champions. For higher education: \$800 million has been approved in the Community College Support Fund and \$1 billion in the Public University Support Fund, with \$20 million earmarked for Regional Universities and PSU. More [here](#). For K-12: \$10.2 billion allocated from the legislature, which is \$700 million higher than “current service levels”. Read more [here](#).

## K-12 - ENDORSED BILLS

**Classified Staff UI Benefits (SB 489) Passed.** Some classified staff are ineligible for UI benefits over the summer or during breaks. This closes the gap ensuring all classified staff can access UI benefits.

**Classified Staff Recognition Week (HB 2708) Passed.** Provides that the first full week in March is now known as Classified School Employees Week in Oregon.

**Classified Staff Representation (HB 3383) Passed.** Increases membership of the State Board of Education to include classified staff members, among other changes.

**Classified Staff Just-Cause and Workforce (SB 283) Passed.** Provides basic job security to classified school employees by requiring “just cause” for discipline or discharge, beginning with survey tools and rule-making by Oregon Department of Education; supports strengthening workforce retention and hiring processes.

**Indoor School Air Quality (HB 3031) Passed.** Supports HVAC infrastructure improvements and for Oregon to study matters of ventilation and energy efficiency.

## HIGHER EDUCATION - ENDORSED BILLS

**Public University Governance (SB 273) Passed.** Increases the representation of students, faculty, and staff on public university governing boards; improves accountability and transparency; adds greater community input into selection process.

**Part-time Faculty Healthcare Reauthorization (HB 2611) Passed.** Re-allocates funding for the Part-time Faculty Healthcare program; improves eligibility requirements to ensure more faculty are eligible; adds vision and dental insurance.

**Grad Employee SNAP Eligibility (SB 609) Passed.** Hours worked as a graduate employee or graduate fellow now contribute towards SNAP eligibility in Oregon.

**Part-Time Faculty Pay Parity (SB 416) Not Passed.** Would have required public universities and community colleges to pay part-time faculty at the same rate on a per-hour basis as full-time faculty to prepare and teach courses.

**Part-Time to Full-Time Faculty Hiring Ratios (HB 3115) Not Passed.** Would have created a hiring ratio of part-time to full-time faculty across higher education, with a gradual decrease over the years in part-time faculty to ensure permanent good paying jobs.

**Campus Safety and Survivor Services (HB 3456) Passed.** Requires college campuses to provide certified survivor services including free medical, legal, and counseling services. Requires biannual campus climate survey data collected at each institution and aggregated by the State of Oregon. Ensures amnesty protection for reporting parties.

**Higher Education for All (HB 3499) Not Passed.** Would have required community colleges and universities to not charge tuition and fees to Oregon residents and create a task force to study how to bring public universities under control of State of Oregon.

## **SOCIAL GOOD - ENDORSED BILLS**

**Nursing Safe Staffing (HB 2697) Passed.** Puts numerical minimum safe staffing ratios for nurses and CNAs to patients in hospital settings by unit; expands the staffing committee structure to service, technical, and professional allied health care workers; and requires the state to enforce the staffing law – including for missed meal and rest breaks.

**Universal Healthcare Governance Board (SB 1089) Passed.** Creates a state board to study, coordinate, and advance towards universal health care coverage.



**Reproductive and Gender Justice (HB 2002) Passed.** The bill strengthens protections for reproductive healthcare providers, strengthens reproductive healthcare access, and increases the number of gender affirming care items that are covered by insurance.

**Reasonable Rents Bill (SB 611) Passed.** Tenants who've occupied their home for a year now cannot receive rent hikes higher than 7% of their current lease, plus inflation, or 10% altogether, whichever is lower. Buildings with 4 units or less, or are 15 years or younger, are exempt from these laws, and can raise rents without any limits.

**Ranked Choice Voting (HB 2004) Passed to Ballot Measure.** This measure is referred to the November 2024 ballot. If passed, elections for federal office and Oregon statewide positions would have the ability to rank candidates in order of their preferences for the 2028 election. This is similar to ranked choice elections already happening in Corvallis, Benton County, Portland, and Multnomah County.

**Legislator Pay Equity (SJR 34) Passed to Ballot Measure.** This measure is referred to the November 2024 ballot. If passed, Oregon will adopt an independent public compensation commission to take the issue of elected official pay out of legislator's hands. The commission would decide on a fair salary for lawmakers and judges.

**PERS Fossil Fuel Divestment (HB 2601) Not Passed.** This bill would have required the State Treasurer to divest from fossil fuel and non-renewable resources.

**Oregon Kids Credit (HB 3235) Passed.** Provides a tax credit for parents of kids 0-5 years of age, limit of 5 dependents per tax return, with phase out and credit calculation linked to inflation and parental income.

# BUILD OUR MOVEMENT



Whether you are a seasoned advocate, a newly interested member, or somewhere in the middle - *all* of us are needed to reclaim our future.

AFT-Oregon's Political and Legislative Affairs Committee takes action on a range of issues - from environment to housing, healthcare to human rights.

From 2023 and into the future, we are going to be trying new and exciting ways for every union member to be active and have a voice in our political, legislative, and policy making decisions.

Email your Political Organizer Andrea Haverkamp [andrea@aft-oregon.org](mailto:andrea@aft-oregon.org) for a coffee chat to get started!

AFT-Oregon union members are building bottom-up political power through developing relationships with lawmakers, brainstorming and developing new policy, getting involved in issue coalitions, and having fun all at the same time. We are building a movement. *Come join us!*



# THANK YOU EDUCATION CHAMPIONS!

We are grateful to Oregon legislators for their hard work passing education legislation.

**Chief Sponsors** take leadership in advancing legislation from the very start of a legislative idea and carry it across the finish line, rallying fellow lawmakers to the issue.

**Regular sponsors** also help advance legislation, work out details, and advocate.

The following legislators have built a name for themselves as education champions by attaching their name onto the following bills we supported:



AFT-Oregon with Rep. Farrah Chichi (center) testifying in support of HB 3499

## CHIEF SPONSORS



**Rep. Farrah Chaichi - Democrat**

House District 35 - Aloha

HB 3499 (Chief), SB 609, HB 3383



**Rep. Paul Evans - Democrat**

House District 20 - Monmouth

HB 2611, SB 609, SB 489 (Chief), HB 2708, HB 3383 (Chief)



**Rep. Mark Gamba - Democrat**

House District 41 - Milwaukie

HB 3456 (Chief), HB 2611, SB 609, SB 489



**Rep. Annessa Hartman - Democrat**

House District 40 - Oregon City

HB 3456 (Chief), SB 489, HB 3031



**Rep. Zach Hudson - Democrat**

House District 49 - Troutdale, Fairview

HB 3456, HB 2611, SB 609, SB 416, HB 3115 (Chief), SB 489, HB 3031



**Rep. Susan McLain - Democrat**

House District 29 - Hillsboro

HB 2611 (Chief), HB 3456





**Rep. Courtney Neron - Democrat**

House District 26 - Wilsonville, Tigard

HB 2611, SB 609 (Chief), HB 2708 (Chief), HB 3383, HB 3031 (Chief)



**Rep. Hoa Nguyen - Democrat**

House District 48 - E. Portland, N. Clackamas

HB 3456, HB 2611, HB 3383 (Chief), HB 3031



**Rep. Ricki Ruiz - Democrat**

House District 50 - Gresham

HB 2611 (Chief), HB 2456, SB 609, HB 2708, HB 3383, HB 3031



**Sen. Wlmsvey Campos - Democrat**

Senate District 18 - Aloha

HB 2611, SB 609 (Chief), SB 489



**Sen. Michael Dembrow - Democrat**

Senate District 23 - Portland

HB 2611 (Chief), SB 609, SB 416 (Chief), HB 3383, SB 273, HB 3031 (Chief)



**Sen. Chris Gorsek - Democrat**

Senate District 25 - Gresham

SB 609, HB 3115, SB 489 (Chief), HB 3383 (Chief)



**Sen. James Manning Jr - Democrat**

Senate District 7 - North and West Eugene

SB 609, HB 2708 (Chief), HB 3383, HB 3031

## REGULAR SPONSORS

**Rep. Anderson**, HB 3456, HB 2611, SB 609, SB 489, HB 3031

**Rep. Bowman**, HB 3456, HB 2611, SB 609, SB 489,

**Rep. Bynum**, HB 2611, HB 3383

**Rep. Dexter**, HB 3456, HB 2611, SB 609, SB 489, HB 3031

**Rep. Fahey**, HB 2611, SB 609, SB 489, HB 2708, HB 3031

**Rep. Grayber**, HB 3456, HB 2611, SB 489, HB 2708, HB 3031

**Rep. Helm**, HB 3456

**Rep. Hieb**, SB 609

**Rep. Holvey**, HB 3456, HB 2611

**Rep. Levy E**, SB 489, HB 3031

**Rep. Kropf**, HB 2611, SB 609, HB 2708, HB 3031,

**Rep. Marsh**, HB 2611

**Rep. Nathanson**, HB 2611

**Rep. Nelson**, HB 2611, SB 609, HB 3383

**Rep. Nosse**, HB 3456, HB 3031

**Rep. Pham H**, HB 2611

**Rep. Pham K**, HB 3499, HB 3456, SB 609, HB 3031

**Rep. Reynolds**, HB 3456, SB 609

**Rep. Sosa**, HB 2611, SB 609, HB 3031

**Rep. Valderrama**, HB 2708

**Rep. Walters**, HB 3456

**Sen. Frederick**, SB 609, HB 3383

**Sen. Gelser Blouin**, SB 609, SB 489, HB 3383

**Sen. Golden**, SB 609

**Sen. Jama**, HB 2611, HB 3383

**Sen. Lieber**, HB 2611, HB 3031

**Sen. Meek**, HB 3456, HB 3031

**Sen. Patterson**, HB 3031

**Sen. Sollman**, HB 3031

**Sen. Wagner**, HB 2708, HB 3383

**Sen. Woods**, HB 2611