

Bill

continued from page 1

work 40 hours per week to receive funds, reduced the number of welfare-to-work participants in school.

"When the federal government ended the option, many needy TANF recipients found that they couldn't possibly work 40 hours a week in low-paying jobs and still finish their degrees," she said in the release. "Consequently, they were forced to quit college, meaning that they could no longer hope to acquire the skills and credentials required for better jobs."

Before the TANF reform, 44.4 percent of welfare-to-work participants were in education or training programs. After the reform, 27.5 percent of those partic-

ipants dropped out of the program, according to the Oregon Students of Color Coalition, which has led major lobbying efforts on behalf of the bill.

But with the new "Parents as Scholars" bill, a full-time class schedule would count toward the 40-hour work requirement.

OSCC co-chairwoman Brenda Sifuentes said the bill is important because it will help needy families attend school while working part-time — and they will still qualify for TANF assistance.

"It would increase the access to education for family members," she said. "If this didn't pass, what could happen is those parents wouldn't be able to attend the University, and they'd get stuck with a low-paying job."

Oregon Student Association spokeswoman Amelie Welden said if the bill passes it would affect about 1 percent of TANF recipients, or 187 families. Of these families, Welden said the bill would mostly give a second chance to many TANF recipients who have been forced out of school after the 40-hour work week requirement.

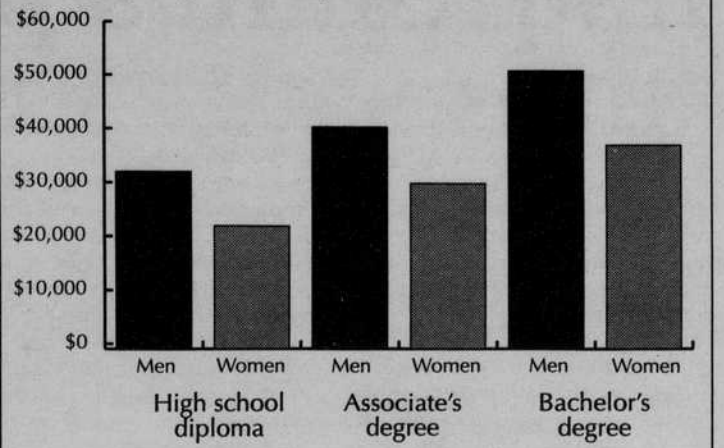
"It's more about allowing people to go to school," she said.

Lonn Hoklin, spokesman for Kafoury, said the bipartisan bill is expected to do well in the Senate, which is its next destination in the lawmaking process.

"We're very hopeful that the Senate will look at it very favorably," he said.

Contact the news editor at janmontry@dailyemerald.com.

Average yearly income by educational attainment, 1999



Adelle Lennox Emerald

SOURCE: Oregon Student Association

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ASUO elections

Phillips, Lee clarify desired ASUO positions

ASUO election candidates Cory Phillips and Jonah Lee have made their decisions on which positions they will actually run for, after write-ins during the primary election caused their names to appear for two different seats, which is in violation of the ASUO election rules. Phillips is running uncontested for the Building Fee Committee, while Lee competes with Gabrielle Guidero for Senate Seat 16.



Voters still have a chance to cast their general election ballots on DuckWeb today and Wednesday until the virtual voting booth closes at 5 p.m.

—Lindsay Sauvé

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