



Government Relations
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Comments on HB 2213

Chair Doherty, Vice Chairs Alonso Leon and Helt, and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Claire McMorris. I am the Coordinator with the Government Relations office at Oregon State University. I am a recent graduate of OSU where I served as the university student representative on the Higher Education Coordinating Commission. My comments today regarding HB 2213 are on behalf of all seven of Oregon's public universities.

We support the goals behind HB 2213. Oregon's public universities are committed to achieving student affordability and accessibility and we understand that addressing affordability goes beyond tuition. Housing, food and daily needs, and textbooks are all significant factors in driving the costs of a post-secondary degree.

At OSU, we not only emphasize the use of open and low-cost resources, but have a strong commitment to developing educational materials for students and the public to use and learn from, all over the world. The [Affordable Learning Initiative](#) is a collaboration between the Open Education Resources (OER) program through the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, the OSU Beaver Store and the OSU Libraries and Press. These efforts saved OSU students more than \$1.5 million last year, and have produced numerous free learning resources written by OSU faculty. The goal is to save students over \$30 million using OERs by 2030.

Although we agree with the goal behind HB 2213 in creating predictability and transparency around textbook prices, the manner in which these goals are administered under the bill raises a number of concerns. It may increase risk, and therefore costs, for our partner bookstores. We will rely on them to raise these concerns with you. The bill also raises questions about how it may affect the academic freedom and the process by which our faculty choose which materials they may use in the classroom.

To address these solvable concerns, we request that the committee allow time for various stakeholders: students, public universities, community colleges, bookstores, and the HECC to consider a possible amendment to Section 2 of HB 2213. We believe that undertaking a collaborative amendment process will better serve the intent of the bill in

a way that accommodates academic and technical needs, while keeping the focus on both lowering the cost, and increasing the predictability of those costs, to students.

We support Section 3 of the bill that requires the establishment of textbook affordability plans. This section complements current efforts across our campuses.

Thank you,

Claire McMorris
Government Relations Coordinator
Oregon State University