

Oregon Student Association



Hello Chair Doherty, Vice Chairs Alonso Leon and Helt, Members of the Committee,

My name is Lizbeht Marquez, I live in Monmouth and I'm a student at Western Oregon University. I am here to ask for your support for HB 2213. I'm a Policy Associate for the Oregon Student Association who advocates for statewide student issues and interests that need to be protected in the Oregon legislature. The biggest issue college students advocate for is an increasing in funding for their education so they will not struggle to pay out of pocket for their tuition. Paying to attend a public university or community college is one thing, but students also pay a high price to access the tools they need to succeed in these institutions.

In higher education, a textbook is the necessary tool a student must purchase in order to successfully pass their course. In my experience, the first week of the term is especially difficult because I am trying to find the most affordable prices for rental textbooks. It is difficult for me as a Sociology major because I have to purchase multiple textbooks for a single course that I will only use for one term. Last term, I couldn't afford to purchase all of the textbooks for all the courses I was taking because I had to purchase one rental textbook that cost eighty-seven dollars.

I was going to drop the course because I couldn't afford to rent the book at that time. I had to make a difficult decision because I had to choose to either drop the course to purchase the rest of my textbooks or purchase the textbook and buy some textbooks for my other courses. I had to buy my textbooks based on which courses were more important for me to pass and which courses I would only use the textbook a couple of times. So, I decided to purchase the textbook because it was for a course required for my major.

The reality is, that there are many students who find themselves in this situation each semester. My experience helped me realize how lucky I was to decide which course was more important because for many other students the choice is much more difficult. Please take into consideration that there are many college students who are food insecure, this means that they must choose between buying groceries or paying for a textbook they will only use for one semester. With the rising cost of tuition, assuring that textbooks are affordable would relieve some burden for students who are already struggling to pay for their education and even a living.

Please vote yes on HB 2213 because it is essential that textbooks are accessible and affordable so that students can succeed in college.

Thank you for your time and commitment to serve Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Lizbeht Marquez

OREGON STUDENT ASSOCIATION

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