

Testimony for Joint Subcommittee on Education

Amy Hofer, Coordinator, Statewide Open Education Library Services, Linn-Benton Community College, 3/20/19

Senator Frederick, Representative McLain, members of the committee, my name is Amy Hofer, Coordinator, Statewide Open Education Library Services, Linn-Benton Community College.

Textbook affordability and open education are currently funded through a combination of the Community College Support Fund and funding appropriated by the Legislature through HB 2729 in 2017. These efforts are consolidated under Open Oregon Educational Resources, which promotes textbook affordability for community college and university students and facilitates widespread adoption of open, low-cost, high-quality materials. You can visit the openoregon.org website for more information showcasing what's happening across the state.

In the 2017-19 biennium, HB 2729 provided \$640,000 for this program. The Community College Support Fund provided an additional \$477,699. The legislative funding is expiring this year and without new funding, textbook affordability work in the state will severely contract because it will rely solely on the CCWD DL fund, which is spread out among a number of other priorities and can only be spent in the colleges.

I'm here to ask the committee to continue funding these efforts. We need legislative funding to prevent textbook costs from becoming the kind of financial emergencies that impact student outcomes and completion. Supporting faculty in making more affordable textbook choices creates a multiplier effect in student savings that makes this spending effective and high-impact. The 2016-17 statewide grants to support faculty who redesign

their courses using open educational resources had an average return of \$4 in student savings for every program dollar spent during the pilot year. Savings compound over time as more students enroll in the redesigned courses.

In my written testimony I've submitted three different budget models for different levels of legislative funding for ongoing work in previous textbook affordability bills that is not built into the continuing service budget, as well as new work in this area. If we keep legislative funding at about the current level of \$640,000, we continue to fund the existing program in all 24 public higher ed institutions. If we double legislative funding to \$1.2M, we can expand the program by hiring an Open Education Publishing Librarian who would manage the resources created by Oregon faculty grantees in order to make the collection more discoverable, accessible, and reusable. If we choose to ramp up, \$2.8M in funding would offer grants to each institution to support implementation of HB 2213, startup funds for creating an open source homework platform, and greatly increased funding for professional development and grants to faculty.

Thank you for your time today.

Budget Scenarios

Budget Item Description	Flat (ish) Funding	Growth Funding	Wish List Funding
Coordinator Salary and Benefits	\$116,364	\$116,364	\$116,364
Administrative Assistant Salary and Benefits	\$132,000	\$132,000	\$132,000
Grant-based OER Projects and related costs (e.g. OPE)	\$150,000	\$250,000	\$500,000
Faculty development	\$200,000	\$250,000	\$300,000
Open Education Publishing Librarian Salary and Benefits	\$0	\$173,000	\$173,000
Open Education Publishing Librarian Projects	\$0	\$200,000	\$200,000
Grants to support each institution implementing textbook affordability plan	\$0	\$0	\$240,000
Open source homework platform startup fund	\$0	\$0	\$500,000
Statewide low-cost print cooperative startup fund	\$0	\$0	\$250,000
Contract researcher for statewide faculty awareness survey	\$0	\$0	\$100,000
Supplies	\$10,000	\$22,500	\$25,000
Indirect Costs - LBCC (10%)	\$60,836	\$114,386	\$253,636
Total	\$669,200	\$1,258,250	\$2,790,000