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**OREGON COMMUNITY COLLEGE ASSOCIATION TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2213
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
APRIL 24, 2019**

Chair Wagner, members of the committee, for the record I'm John Wykoff, Deputy Director of the Oregon Community College Association; and I am here today in support of HB 2213.

Today, community college students face rising costs across the board as they struggle to pay for education and training beyond high school. As state spending on post-secondary education has receded over time, students have seen the cost of tuition rise year after year. Compounding the burden students already face, are other costs beyond their control such as skyrocketing housing costs and the ever-increasing cost of traditional text books.

While the price of recreational books has dipped in the past 15 years, the price of textbooks has increased nearly twofold. Currently, four major publishing companies control more than 80 percent of the textbook market, and the books are chosen by the instructor or professor and not the student customer. According to a study released last year, 4 out of 10 course textbooks are also bundled with internet "access codes" that expire at the end of the semester. This forces students to buy books at retail prices at campus bookstores that are worthless in the resale market. Without meaningful ability for the consumer to make choices, the text book industry is a classic example of a broken market.

With increasing access to low and no-cost text books, colleges and universities can be on the forefront of easing one of the fastest growing costs students face. HB 2213 provides further focus and support for the good work already being done at colleges and universities across the state. It also provides a foundation of support for the faculty members working to create high-quality textbooks at little or no cost to students.

Colleges are committed to building on the good progress already made lowering text book costs for Oregon students and we thank the committee for your interest and attention to this issue.