

Representative Susan McLain

House District 29



I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 3012. This bill will increase student inclusion in on-campus decision making, and solidify the relationship between student governments and governing boards across the state.

Student incidental fees typically cover student involvement activities and programs, and are meant to reflect the changing needs and interests of students over time. Student governments allocate the student fee to a variety of vital campus experiences and resources. While traditionally they have been seen as avenues for students to engage in student government, fund intramural sports, and create activity clubs on campus, in the current era student fees are also covering much needed items like Food Pantries and diversity, equity, and inclusion services.

The student-controlled incidental fee is the only fee that students pay to institutions where they then have democratic student control over the expenditure of those funds. Student control over student fees reflects the value of taxation with representation. Taking any control over incidental fees out of the hands of students amounts to taxation without representation and marginalizes student voices in the programmatic debates that colleges and universities engage in. These fees are supposed to be expressly for student priorities, however universities have not always kept this in mind when it comes to using these fees. HB 3012 simply ensures student control over student incidental fees.

Student fee processes are culturally enriching and educational. They represent democratic values and are transparent and fiscally responsible. HB 3012 preserves and upholds these values while making some clarifications within existing statute. If passed, incidental fees for our public colleges and universities would be determined by students for students, which is exactly the way it should be. I am a proud sponsor of this bill and will always work to increase student voices at Oregon's colleges and universities.

Sincerely,

Representative Susan McLain

