

Good afternoon members of the Education Committee,

My name is Arlette Tapia and I am a second year student at Western Oregon University majoring in Criminal Justice.

I am writing to ask you to vote yes on **HB 2542**, which would create mandatory fee transparency at all public colleges.

This term in addition to tuition, textbooks and living expenses, I have paid over \$900 in fees. Prior to the term I didn't know where the fees were going. All of the fees were unclear, one of those being the online fee which is a new fee that was added this academic school year at WOU. Administration has failed to elaborate on where the fee is going towards. Whereas students should be able to have access to a concrete layout to where their money is going.

After multiple attempts on trying to reach out to administration to get a response where the fees are going towards and on how the fees are being distributed for the students needs. Administration has failed to give students a clear response. It has been difficult for students at WOU to get in contact with administration. I feel that Western Oregon University's administration is NOT transparent to students regarding any decisions so they must be held accountable. They do not take in account students' perspectives and/or opinions. I feel like they take in account what will benefit the University as whole, rather than making students a priority. Budget decisions affect students who attend our University, however administration doesn't take that into consideration.

HB 2542 is about transparency and accountability at our colleges, so that students can have the information they need to manage their finances better and succeed in school.

Thank you for your time. Please vote YES on HB 2542.

Sincerely,

Arlette Tapia Lopez