Chair Dembrow, Vice Chair Thomsen, and members of the Senate Education committee,

My name is Kierra Wing and I am a 3rd year student double majoring HR/Management & Leadership at the lovely Portland State University!

I am here to ask you to vote yes on HB 2919.

On top of thousands of dollars in tuition for classes, I additionally spend hundreds of dollars each term for physical textbooks or virtual textbook rentals. For one class I can spend as much as 200 dollars on just one 3 month access code for a virtual textbook that will expire at the end of the term.

I am only 20 years old and I am going to school full time and I struggle to live downtown. In order to keep up with my bills I have to be very financially responsible and carefully budget so I can feed me and my partner as well as our two always-hungry cats. Right now, because we do not have HB 2919 in place, that is hard to do. Sometimes I don't find out about the necessary textbooks for my class until the first day of school and then I have to scramble to figure out how I am going to buy $400 worth of books during the first week of the term as I still try to get adjusted and manage my new workload during the the tumultuous first week of school. Sometimes this means sacrificing our groceries so I can buy a $125 code that grants me only 90 days of access to a mandatory textbook, or racking up credit card debt on a pricey textbook I just found out I need but I'll only used once. Oftentimes I have to wait to get the books until I can afford it or decide that I won't buy the book until I absolutely have to due to its absurd cost and this can result in being confused in class or receiving bad grades on assignments or tests.

My story is not unique, and this should not be happening to students in Oregon. The protections in HB 2919 can help make that better. This is already statute in our neighboring state of Washington. It's time for Oregon to address the textbook affordability crisis.

Please vote yes on  HB 2919, and thank you for your time.


Best,

Kierra Wing