

Greetings members of the committee,

My name is Evan Walker and I'm a student at Oregon State University.

I ask for you to support HB 2835, which would ensure students statewide get the basic needs support they need.

I rent a house close to the Corvallis campus and paying for it certainly impacts my education. Rent is always the first thing that comes out of my paycheck and is also the biggest hit. On top of rent, I have to pay for high-quality Internet to make sure I'm able to participate in current education. Right now I work 2 jobs and previously worked 3. I currently work 20 hours a week and receive a little over a enough to cover rent and basic needs.

I am receiving SNAP benefits at this time and have been for over a year now. My entire time in college I've been struggling with an eating disorder that is tied to my work and anxiety. Before I knew of and started receiving SNAP benefits, I would leave food as the last thing I bought because I was used to not eating and I had a really tight budget. Since enrolling in SNAP, I've had less financial anxiety and have a better relationship with food, even if I'm not completely healed from my eating disorder yet. I'm able to have access to Basic Needs without having my eating disorder and food insecurity inflicting too much pain. That being said, I wouldn't have enrolled in SNAP if I hadn't received multiple encounters with and assistance from the HSRC at OSU! It felt very comforting to feel support on issues in my life that aren't always easy to deal with. I feel more confident in moving through college because I received support and know to spread the word of the support offered through this program (HSRC + Basic Needs Advising).

Other students at other campuses in Oregon need the support we have at OSU, and OSU could really use additional support to keep this vital resources going. Please vote yes on HB 2835. Thank you.

Evan Walker

OSU Student