

My name is Mary Martindale and I am a student at Treasure Valley Community College in Ontario. I am writing to request your support for HB 2835.

If it weren't for the STEP Program and my Benefits Navigator, I would not be in school today. I am a former private school teacher and all of the private schools in my area have closed except for one. I was not able to get a position in teaching except for substitute teaching. Then my husband passed away and I had trouble supporting myself and my children. Because of the STEP Program I am able to go to school free of charge and in June I will have my Medical Assistant Certificate. My Benefits Navigator has helped me to find government programs that have met our basic needs while I am going to school. Also, my Benefits Navigator has helped me with some of my hardest classes by assisting me with my homework. She has also taught a class to help people be more successful in college. I hope that you will continue to fund and support the Benefits Navigator position at our school.

Mary Martindale, Vale