

Hello to the Education Committee,

My name is Maya Ward and I am a student at the University of Oregon.

I am asking you to vote yes on HB 2835. This bill helps address the food and housing insecurity crisis among students at our colleges and universities.

In Oregon, we know that in 2020, about 41% of students were food insecure. This impacts our ability to succeed in school and graduate in a timely manner.

My personal experience with food and housing insecurity has been difficult. I spend a lot of time bulk making and finding deals to keep within my budget, which takes away from time to do work. Additionally, I am a renter, which means that I sometimes have to spend less money on food and don't buy textbooks to be able to afford my rent. It is important to know that this impacts my education. It is hard to focus on work when you have so many other things going on in you priorities, and it is sure hard to think about long term goals when I have no options to save. Right now I supplement my income with multiple internships, on-campus paid jobs, and some help from my parents. During the summer, I will usually work two jobs trying to save up money for the rest of the school year.

Please remember my story when you are voting on this bill, and please vote yes on HB 2835.

Thank you,  
Maya Ward