

Dear Chair Alonso Leon and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Joshua Gabriel. I am a student at Rogue Community College in Grants Pass. I am writing to request your support for **HB2835**.

Having a Benefits Navigator on my campus is important to me because there is a great need for me to get my everyday basic needs met in order for me to complete school and find sustainable work. I have been homeless multiple times the last couple years, am currently receiving SNAP, and continually could use more resources to focus on school. I barely have enough resources to make it through each week, especially during the pandemic and COVID. Having a person such as a STEP program coordinator previously and currently assisting me has been crucial for my success. I feel I would not have made it through to school this far without this support.

I make good use of the limited funds I have, and typically do not have enough food and resources everyday to make it through. The adult basic skills and GED program has supported and helped me meet my basic needs and without it I would not even have \$5 for gas for the week, would not have completed my GED, and would not have made it through two years as college student.

I am becoming more educated because of this support. However, more support is needed for me to get by day to day. I highly recommend a benefits navigator to better support myself and other students in getting their basic needs met so we can focus on school and not feel so stressed about basic needs.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service.

Joshua Gabriel

Grants Pass (Josephine Counties)