

Dear Chair Alonso Leon and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Holly Smyth. I am a student at Rogue Community College in Medford. 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 be able to spend my time on school and not worrying about how to get food on my table, pay rent, and every day basic needs, especially for my kids.

I have been fortunate to find some support through RCC in the STEP program and the resources they provide. This program helps me in so many ways. It allows me to stay focused on school, by making sure my books for schooling are paid for. It helps tremendously with gas as well. As a single parent and soul provider for my family every single dollar counts towards a future. My 2 year old and I are so grateful for not just for this program but for the inspiration it has given us in so many ways. And I think more support is needed and I could use it and my fellow students too.

I need the constant contact that keeps me motivated to keep going. Times are tough right now with the uncertainty of what the world will bring with this Covid 19 pandemic. A benefits navigator and connection to resources would lighten our load, as the STEP program has done. My little family and I thank you for all that you do, more support to myself and others is needed. Please better support us with additional resources a benefits navigator could provide.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service.

Holly Smyth

Medford, OR