

To: Chair Alonso Leon and Members of the Committee
House Committee on Education, HB2835

Fr: Karen Schaefer
SOCC Curry County Student
VP of Finance, AAWCC SWOCC Chapter

Dt: February 11, 2021

RE: HB2835

Dear Chair Alonso Leon and Members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is Karen Schaefer, I am an older student at SOCC in Brookings and Coos Bay and a recipient of the services of both the SNAP and STEP programs in Curry County and the SOCC STEP program. I am asking for your support for HB2835. I live in Port Orford, in Curry County. Receiving food stamps, funding, tuition assistance, course material assistance, and the personal support from the STEP program at SOCC have been crucial to my educational, financial, and personal health.

Funding to secure a Benefits Navigator on my campus is very important to me personally, but also because I know how many older and minority individuals in Oregon struggle with the basics of food and shelter, and how the increase of a college education can be of benefit to us. These are hard things for anyone to deal with, but for all of the displaced persons in Oregon, from employment, housing, and food issues, I know I need all of the help I can to improve my future and my present circumstances. Many college students are seriously struggling already with pandemic issues; they should not be worried about where their next meal will be coming from or whether they can afford to live in a decent place. This is a scary situation for a lot of individuals who are out there on their own with limited support.

HB2835 will offer the assistance so many students need throughout our beautiful State of Oregon. Please help to ensure that is possible.

Thank you to Chair Alonso Leon and Members of the Committee for your consideration and for your service.

Karen Schaefer
SOCC Accounting Student
VP of Finance, AAWCC SWOCC Chapter
Port Orford, Curry County

cc: Chris Baker, Oregon Hunger
Clayton Willet, SOCC STEP Program