

Dear Education Committee,

My name is Ella Meloy and I am a second-year student studying at the University of Oregon.

I am writing today to ask you to vote yes on HB 2524, which would create mandatory fee transparency at all public colleges.

School is very expensive, and since 1999, mandatory fees have risen 30% more than tuition in the United States. This term in addition to tuition, textbooks and living expenses, I am having to pay for a technology fee, Rec fee, EMU fee, the incidental fee, and a building fee.

I believe there should be a standardized and transparent system for students to look at the cost to go to the public colleges in Oregon. As an in-state student, going into my first-year I looked at a lot of the public options in Oregon, but it was hard to know what I was really contemplating paying for without being able to see the fees at all the colleges here. I'm on a tight budget paying for rent, food, gas and all living expenses on top of educational costs. The more information the easier it is for me to plan, and having this standardized system in place while I was choosing where to attend college would've helped me plan my higher education costs more so.

This bill would help increase transparency to all students but also help promote accountability and fiscal responsibility within the universities across a standardized level. As someone who helps allocate funding from the incidental fee at the University of Oregon, having to be transparent with where all funding goes holds us accountable and fiscally responsible while allocating this money. This would help ensure the same at the administrative level, making sure that every cent and fee is used in a fiscally responsible way, and monitored by the HECC.

Tuition, and fees are so expensive and continue to rise, at the very least all funds need to be spent in an accountable way and this bill will help ensure this across all public colleges on campus, alongside helping students have the information they need to manage their costs for higher Ed.

Thank you for your time. Please vote yes on this bill.

Sincerely,

Ella Meloy