

Dear members of the education committee,

My name is Nick Keough (they/he) and I am a student at the University of Oregon as well as a member of ASUO Student Government!

Today, I am asking you to vote yes on HB2542 that would help increase transparency on how mandatory fee revenue is used on campus and would create statewide student access to mandatory fee info.

As I am sure you are aware, the cost of higher education has skyrocketed in the last 20 years. As a first-generation, low-income, non-traditional student, the cost of attendance at the University of Oregon has been the biggest barrier to my success as a student. My family and I have made so many sacrifices for me to continue to be in college, and I wish it could just be easier for students like me to afford going here. Not only am I talking about the cost of tuition and textbooks, but also the excessive use of mandatory fees that add up very quickly. For example, UO charges a technology fee for students to access Wi-Fi which in my mind is something that should be covered in the cost of tuition...but it is not. This is just one example, and as I am sure you will hear from other students across other campuses odd mandatory fees like this are not uncommon. Since 1999 mandatory fees have risen 30 percent more than tuition has in the US, with the average fee at four-year public colleges totaling \$1,700 in 2015-16. This is unacceptable and continues to be a barrier to accessing and affording a higher education for students like myself. Addressing mandatory fees is crucial to address the affordability of higher education in Oregon, can Oregon students count on your support for HB 2542?

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Nick Keough (They/He)