

Hello to the Education Committee,

My name is Elizabeth Braatz and I am a Junior at Western Oregon University studying Criminal Justice with a minor in legal studies.

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

This term, I paid \$938 in mandatory fees. I opted into the Student Health Fee which is \$145, and then I knew I would most likely have to pay for the Incidental Fee which is \$150. However I was not aware of what the price of the Online Course would be for this term. I do not know where specifically the Incidental Fee is going and I especially do not know where the online course fee is going.

At our institution it is extremely difficult to have transparency within the administration. I have been a part of different committees as well as the associated students of Western Oregon University. As student leaders we are fighting for student's rights, and it feels like as students we carry the burden of our administration's failures. We are fighting to help make college affordable, keep jobs, and help be as equitable as possible.

I am extremely lucky to have a supportive family. My parents told me that if I wanted to go to college then I would have to find a way to pay for it. I am very lucky to have gotten scholarships that helped with the expenses of college. The cost of attendance affects me personally because I am paying for college out of my own pocket. I have worked extremely hard, made sacrifices, all to ensure that I would graduate with no debt. Having additional fees during a pandemic without an explanation as to where those fees are going, feels more like an opportunity of taking advantage of students and families during an extremely vulnerable time.

HB 2542 is about transparency and accountability at our colleges, so that students can have the information they need to manage their finances better and succeed in school.

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

Sincerely,

Elizabeth