

Oregon Student Association



Chair Alonso Leon, Vice-Chairs Neron & Weber, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Emily Wanous and I am the Legislative Director for the Oregon Student Association.

OSA asks you to support HB 3012. You will hear today from amazing student leaders at our public university campuses whose work demonstrates the importance of the concept of student fee autonomy regarding the student incidental fee. This bill creates no new processes, it simply clarifies existing ones which for the most part work very well and run smoothly.

Our campus student fee processes are culturally enriching, educational, democratic, transparent, and fiscally responsible. They provide learning opportunities for student government members to go through a democratic process of setting a budget for student programs and services, and they provide a unique voice to students.

The student controlled incidental fee is the only money which students pay to institutions and then have democratic student control over the expenditure of. Our work shows time and time again that the only way students get their needs met on campus is when they are given a voice and given power. That's why statewide we see this fee funding resource centers for underrepresented students, food pantries, and vital extracurricular programs.

We have been alarmed this year to see some campus administrations decline to honor the importance of this fee, as you will hear details about today. I believe in assuming best intentions, and I truly believe some of the difficulties between students and administrators this past year in following the process outlined in ORS 341.470 and 352.105 is due to just a few aspects of the statute which could be improved through clarified language. **That is what HB 3012 does: it makes small changes to existing statute (ORS 341.470 and 352.105) which clarifies the law and makes it easier for both administrations and student governments to follow, while upholding the original intent of the law.**

Please vote yes on HB 3012, and thank you for your time.

Emily Wanous

OREGON STUDENT ASSOCIATION

The Oregon Student Association (OSA) is a statewide, student-led advocacy and organizing non-profit established in 1975 to represent, serve, and protect the collective interests of students in postsecondary education in Oregon

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