

Hello to the Education Committee,

My name is Neha Singh and I am a Portland State University student. I am here to ask you to vote yes on HB 2919.

This term, the cost of attendance at PSU has put a massive financial strain on my family since both me and my brother are currently enrolled in college.

I am trying to be financially responsible and carefully budget so I can finish my degree. However, because the cost of textbooks is too high, I rarely buy the textbooks I need for my courses. I have always tried my best to somehow get through classes without a textbook. For some classes, textbooks are a required part of the course and utilizing a textbook for most courses can be extremely beneficial toward your success. As a biology student, it makes it more difficult to understand dense and concept-heavy material while relying solely on class lectures without the help of textbooks.

Right now, because we do not have HB 2919 in place, that is simply not enough to do well in class, but I have no other option. I believe that access to textbook and fee price amounts at the time of course registration can help me better plan for my academic term. That way, I can decide when and where to allocate more hours at work to make sure I have enough money set aside to pay for textbooks while having some money leftover for other college-related expenses.

Having the ability to plan ahead of time is important to me because my parents have had to schedule late payments for their house and utility bills in order to help assist my brother and I with tuition expenses. I have taken out loans and have received scholarships, however, I'm still paying an incredibly high amount of out-of-pocket expenses for textbooks and fees while my parents recently lost their jobs.

My story is not unique, and this should not be happening to students in Oregon. The protections in HB 2919 can help make that better. This is already statute in our neighboring state of Washington. It's time for Oregon to address the textbook affordability crisis.

Please vote yes on HB 2919, and thank you for your time.

Best,

Neha Singh
PSU Student