

Hello to the Education Committee,

My name is Maya Ward and the State Secretary for the Associated Students of the University of Oregon. I am also a second year student studying Political Science at UO.

I am here to ask you to vote yes on HB 2919.

This term, COVID has made me especially nervous, as I don't know what I will do about healthcare if I need serious medical attention. In terms of food insecurity, I would not call myself food insecure but that does not mean I don't spend much of the week thinking about how to best budget and ration out my food and cooking and freezing large batches of food, and cutting coupons.

I am trying to be financially responsible and carefully budget so I can finish my degree and get a job in the civil law field-- however, the costs of textbooks has more often than not forced me to drop a class in its entirety, because I couldn't afford the textbook, and then had to switch into another class at the last minute to ensure I remained with the necessary minimum credits I need for the term. Sometimes those classes are of no interest to me, but I have no other choice.

Right now, because we do not have HB 2919 in place, that is hard to do. I want to tell you a story: Financially speaking: 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 because I would actually be able to budget out and decide which courses I don't want to take, that way, I can plan for backup classes instead of just scrambling to find something last minute.

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,

Maya Ward