

TO: House Committee on Higher Education  
FROM: Matt Newell-Ching, Senior Policy Manager  
RE: Support for HB 3089, The Hunger-Free Campus Bill  
DATE: February 7, 2023



Chair Lively, Vice-Chairs MacIntire and Ruiz, and members of the committee,

Oregon Food Bank's mission is to eliminate hunger and its root causes. We pursue this goal in two key ways: we foster community connections to help people access nutritious food today, and we advocate to change policies that drive hunger and poverty.

No one should go hungry. Yet we know that college students - who are working hard and seeking to advance career opportunities - face extraordinarily high rates of food insecurity - three to four times the rate of the general population. Students at community colleges face especially high rates of hunger. Systemic inequities mean that students who are Black, Indigenous, Latinx, LGBTQ+, and students who are parents face particularly heightened rates of food insecurity. Despite this, many college students are unfairly excluded from federal food assistance programs for no other reason than being a college student.

### **Oregon Food Bank Supports HB 3089, the Hunger-Free Campus Bill**

The Hunger-Free Campus Bill builds on the work Oregon is doing to bridge access to food for college students who need support. The bill would provide funding to public colleges and universities that address student hunger on campus. Any college or university is eligible to access these funds if they engage in best practices, including enrollment support for SNAP, provide a food pantry on campus, develop a meal credit/donation program, and research on the extent of hunger on campus.

This support would help each campus build its capacity to pinpoint the programs and solutions that work best for their student body and grow the impact of those targeted programs. The Hunger Free Campus Bill is built with the understanding that each campus community knows the unique challenges to their community and how to address them.

Eight states have formally passed a version of the Hunger-Free Campus Bill: California, New Jersey, Maryland, Minnesota, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Oklahoma, and Louisiana. With your support, Oregon can become the 9th state to do this.

Oregonians currently face increased costs for food and the phasing out of pandemic assistance. Oregon's legislature is in a strong position to embrace our shared values, care for each other and take bold action in support of *all* Oregonians. **We urge your support for HB 3089.**

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