



**Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs**

**Advocating for Equity and Diversity throughout Oregon**

Chair Lively, Vice Chair Ruiz, Vice Chair McIntire, and members of the House Committee on Higher Education:

For the record, my name is Jackie Leung, Co-Chair of the Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OCAPIA). OCAPIA works for the implementation and establishment of economic, social, legal, and political equity for Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in the state of Oregon and to maintain a continuing assessment of issues and needs confronting Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in this state. OCAPIA has several statutory duties, all of which revolve around advocacy and equity.

I also served on the Oregon State University Hunger Task Force and currently serve as a member on the Oregon Hunger Task Force. These are important task forces that discuss the heavy topic of hunger and food insecurity within the community. The task forces listen and make decisions on improving access to food and food systems for college students.

Today, I am writing to you in support of HB 3089, which creates an incentive program to address student hunger on college and university campuses in Oregon. Hunger among college and university students have continued to increase. Food insecurity is the lack of consistent access to enough food for all persons in a household to live an active, healthy life.<sup>1</sup>

With soaring tuition rates, the cost of housing and food, college and university students are seeing hunger rates as high as 30 percent, and higher since the start of the pandemic.<sup>2</sup> Oregon State University released a study on food insecurity among OSU college students. The reports were troublesome, with students of color reporting higher rates of prevalence of food insecurity compared to white students. Further, after adjusting for other variables, the odds of food insecurity for OSU students are 30 percent higher for Asians compared to white students, and 800 percent higher for Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students.<sup>3</sup>

HB 3089 establishes a hunger task force at each university and college, to set goals and action plans towards ending hunger, while designating staff to assist students in enrollment into the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Further, HB 3089 will bring forth the realities that college and university students face today: that hunger is a lived reality for college and university students, whether the student is first generation college student, or a student returning to college for a degree, while balancing working or raising a family.

Supporting HB 3089 will decrease hunger and food insecurity for college students.

**Oregon Commission on  
Asian and Pacific Islander  
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As a former single parent and a current graduate student, HB 3089 will make a difference for people like me, who have experienced food insecurity, and are familiar with what it is and would like to not be able to access affordable food or roaming the halls to grab free food from 'free events.'

We strongly urge you to pass HB 3089, which will provide an incentive program that would send funding to public colleges and universities that address student hunger on campus. Our future generations depend on it.

Sincerely,




Jackie Leung

1. Hunger in America: Food Insecurity. <https://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/food-insecurity>
2. Edwards, M., Jackson, J., Meyer, J., and Venable, V. 2021. Oregon State University Food Security Student. [https://liberalarts.oregonstate.edu/sites/liberalarts.oregonstate.edu/files/oregon\\_state\\_university\\_food\\_security\\_study.pdf](https://liberalarts.oregonstate.edu/sites/liberalarts.oregonstate.edu/files/oregon_state_university_food_security_study.pdf)
3. Mullan, D. 2023, January 13. Administrators, Students Hunger is Gripping Oregon College Students, Preventing Degrees. *Forest Grove Newstimes*. [https://www.forestgrovenewstimes.com/news/administrators-students-hunger-is-gripping-oregon-college-students-preventing-degrees/article\\_d3c0b89e-93a5-11ed-8dae-b314234f96dc.html](https://www.forestgrovenewstimes.com/news/administrators-students-hunger-is-gripping-oregon-college-students-preventing-degrees/article_d3c0b89e-93a5-11ed-8dae-b314234f96dc.html)



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