



To: House Committee on Higher Education
From: Bella-Cherise Gorichar, UO '23
Re: Support for HB 3121
Date: March 14th, 2023

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

My name is Bella-Cherise Gorichar, I am a third year student at the University of Oregon. I study English and I am an intern with OSPIRG Students at the University of Oregon. OSPIRG Students is a statewide student run, student funded advocacy organization allowing students to effect change on the issues they care about. Currently, we are running our textbook affordability campaign because textbooks are too expensive. It is not uncommon for students to spend over \$100 on textbooks each term, but no student should be left in a position where they need to decide between buying textbooks and food. I am submitting written testimony in support of HB 3121 with the -1 Amendment that will help make critical investments in Open Oregon Educational Resources, Oregon's statewide textbook affordability program.

Imagine trying to learn a second language with no textbook. For myself and my peers at UO, this is not something we have to imagine. Many cannot afford the textbooks and workbooks required in these classes and as a result are unable to complete necessary readings, homework assignments, and activities. As a University of Oregon student, I know firsthand that textbooks are too expensive, especially with a quarter system in which students must budget to purchase books three separate times a year. My peers in my Japanese classes are not alone; in the past few years, textbook prices have increased three times faster than inflation, leading roughly 65% of students to continue to skip purchasing necessary materials. At the University of Oregon, we have been celebrating and highlighting professors that utilize open educational resources in their classes, but with more funding, more work can be done.

Textbook affordability and expansion of open educational resources on campus is incredibly important to students in Oregon. We hope that the Oregon legislature passes HB 3121 with the -1 Amendment to take meaningful steps to mitigate the textbook affordability crisis across the state, freeing students to pursue their education without these significant financial burdens.

Thank you for your time.

Bella Cherise Gorichar
University of Oregon
OSPIRG Students