

Chair Lively, Vice Chairs McIntire, Ruiz, and Members of the House Committee on Higher Education,

For the record, my name is Nawaf AlWahaibi, and I am a student leader with the Associated Students of Oregon Institute of Technology. I am writing on behalf of Oregon Tech students in support of HB 3121 with the -1 amendments, because open educational resources make a difference in the ability of students to learn material and receive a high quality education.

Oregon Tech has been a leader in expanding access to open educational resources (OERs). The library provides resources and incentives for faculty to transition their courses to using OERs. When you walk around our campus, you will see many faculty offices with bright stars indicating that they are what we call "OER champions."

In 2021, a survey showed that Oregon Tech students were able to earn every general education credit needed to graduate without paying for a textbook thanks to OERs. Students at Oregon Tech have saved over \$1 million thanks to these resources, and studies show that every state dollar invested in OERs saves students \$3-30. This is a program that has a proven impact on college affordability.

As an international student, I was surprised at how much textbook cost in the United States. And having the resources to study was important to me. Coming from a place where I don't share the same background academically as my fellow students, I had to have the resources necessary to succeed. Using OERs was beneficial since I could use the resource I needed at no cost, which reduces my levels of stress as I don't need to think about how much I need to on textbooks.

Thank you for your service to our state and community. I know that you are faced with a number of difficult decisions this legislative session, but I hope you will support common sense investments like those in the -1 amendments in HB 3121. Open Oregon Educational Resources is an important program that helps students succeed.