



To: House Committee on Higher Education  
From: Kaelan Reagan, UO '25  
Re: Support for HB 3121  
Date: March 15th, 2023

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

My name is Kaelan Reagan, I am a second year student at the University of Oregon. I study History and English and I am a Board Member with OSPIRG Students at the University of Oregon. OSPIRG Students is a student-led group focused on environmental and social causes that impacts students across the state. Currently, we are running our textbook affordability campaign because textbooks are too expensive and students aren't able to afford them. But, open educational resources and their expansion across the state are the solution, giving students the opportunity to make the most of their higher education without having to worry about lacking resources in the first place. A Student PIRGs study found that with textbook pricing increasing more than three times the rate of inflation, causing 65% of students surveyed to skip purchasing textbooks due to cost. 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.

Knowing my higher education opportunities are already putting me into a high level of debt for a majority of my life, expansion of open educational resources are incredibly important to me. I am an RA on campus at UO, and it gives me the ability to lift some of my educational financial burdens off my shoulders. I chose to be an RA on campus to help support students, and want to continue to support students by advocating for their financial well being through textbook affordability. However, as an individual student, I would rather spend my limited time looking forward to the courses I am excited to take, rather than worrying about whether or not I will be able to afford to live after paying for required texts. This year, for example, I had to buy an online spanish textbook for \$180. That one spanish textbook is the equivalent of two months worth of income for me. If we expand access to open education resources on campus, students like myself could pursue more extracurricular opportunities without being stunted by the cost of textbooks every term.

Expanding open educational resources and giving more resources to professors to utilize them is incredibly important to higher education 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.

Thank you for your time.

Kaelan Reagan

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