

Submitter: Michael Walsh

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce
Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3182

Chair Huson, Vice Chair Fragala and Harbick, and members of the committee,

My name is Mike Walsh and I am writing in support of HB 3182 from my perspective as VP for Student Affairs at OHSU. As you know, OHSU is committed to growing and supporting Oregon's health care workforce to serve the state and region, especially rural areas and other underserved areas and populations. In order to have the greatest impact for our great state, we need to attract, retain, and graduate students who will then feel committed to Oregon enough to take jobs here. We do a great job in this mission, but we can always use help. That's where HB 3182 comes in. Training for a degree in medicine, dentistry, nursing, pharmacy, or any other of the scores of health care professions we educate for, requires an enormous sum of money and time from students. This means that money is often not enough for housing and food. When otherwise extremely talented students can't afford housing or food, they drop out leaving a debt to them, and a huge loss to the State of Oregon. Simple measures like HB 3182 will help shore up finances for our future healthcare workforce.

The investment you make by supporting and voting for this bill will pay huge dividends to the future of Oregon and all Oregonians.

Thank you for your time, and I hope that I can count on your support of HB 3182: The Student Basic Needs and Workforce Stabilization Act.

Mike Walsh