

Submitter: SJ P

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 SJ P. and I am a faculty member at Lane Community College. I am writing in support of HB 3182 and HB 3183: The Student Basic Needs and Workforce Stabilization Act, which will make important investments in student basic needs initiatives, affordable student housing initiatives, and textbook affordability.

At Lane Community College, we have seen an increase in students seeking support for basic needs, including food, housing, childcare, and transportation. Faculty and staff are stepping in to fill the gaps, often using their own money to support students who would otherwise go without essential resources.

This past term, we administered a grant-funded program focused on reducing barriers to student support, which in its first term alone provided 1,068 meals and 3,416 snacks to students. Students who use the program, report that providing this support helps them to make it through their day, encourages them to use the resource center, and creates a more welcoming and inclusive environment. The success of this initiative underscores the urgent demand for sustainable solutions.

One student who uses one of the resource center's food pantries every day shared that without this resource, they would not have access to a hot meal. According to the student, being able to walk into a center and help themselves to food has been a "game changer".

Thank you for your time, and I hope that I can count on your support of HB 3182 and HB 3183: The Student Basic Needs and Workforce Stabilization Act. Students cannot wait any longer!

Thank you for your time.