

Submitter: Julia Stone

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce
Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3183

My name is Julia Stone, and I am an Open Scholarship Librarian at Portland State University (PSU). I am writing in strong support of HB 3182 and HB 3183: The Student Basic Needs and Workforce Stabilization Act. These bills make crucial investments in student basic needs initiatives, affordable housing, and textbook affordability—issues that are essential for the well-being and success of PSU students.

Although my role is not directly student-facing, I am deeply invested in student basic needs and student success. For instance, I make sure to spread the word and share flyers about the PSU Food Pantry. Since its humble beginnings in 2012 as a one-shelf, student-run operation, the PSU Food Pantry has grown into a vital resource for students. Today, as an Oregon Food Bank Partner Agency, it provides thousands of PSU students with access to free groceries each year. This service, funded by the Student Fee Committee and donor support, helps students meet their basic nutritional needs, allowing them to focus on their studies rather than worry about where their next meal will come from. Additional funding for programs like the PSU Food Pantry would make a significant difference for PSU students facing food insecurity.

Through my role as Open Scholarship Librarian, I am directly involved with managing open education initiatives on campus, which aim to reduce the financial burden of textbooks. I work with faculty members to adopt, adapt, and create open textbooks for their courses, helping to lower the cost of course materials for students. Since 2017, through our collaboration with Open Oregon Educational Resources, we have helped 146 PSU faculty members receive over \$75,000 in professional development and grant funding to create open educational resources. As a result, more than 7,000 PSU students have saved nearly \$900,000 in textbook costs. This represents a remarkable return on investment—nearly \$12 in student savings for every dollar spent.

However, these initiatives require continued support. Increasing funding for programs related to open educational resources would allow us to compensate faculty for their work in creating free, accessible materials, rather than relying on expensive textbooks from traditional publishers. Sustaining and supporting efforts in open education would help ease the financial burden on students, who are already struggling to meet the costs of basic needs like food, transportation, and housing.

I wholeheartedly support HB 3182 and HB 3183 because they align with my mission to help ensure that all students have access to the resources they need to succeed, both academically and personally. 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!