

Dear Chair Hudson and members of the committee,

My name is Stephanie Prentiss, and I used to work as a UO Revenue Agent and also served on HECC's committee that had a goal of supporting financial security for students. 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.

As a revenue agent, students who came to me were 100% in need. They couldn't pay for their housing costs and food needs, much less afford to register for classes.

It was my job to help find local organizations and program funding to help them. As I worked with them, it was evident that these students were not just struggling with one financial issue but rather needed holistic care and support in order to be able to continue to go to school and succeed. And many times, their access to resources are tied to their registration in classes. Housing, food and a student job were all based on a student to be registered as a full-time student.

Unfortunately, I saw many students fall through the cracks, who are now in debt with no degree to show for it. I believe education shouldn't be a privilege, even higher education. These investments are investments in our state's future.

I hope that I can count on your support of HB 3182 and HB 3183: The Student Basic Needs and Workforce Stabilization Act.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Prentiss