



2025 RESOLUTION ON BILLS UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH OF THE STATE OF OREGON

Topic: Resolution in support of various bills proposed during the 2025 Long Session of the Oregon State Legislature

Authors: Senator Andrew Ducharme, Sen. Prissila Moreno, Chair. Bella Esbeck, Sen. Jess Fisher

Cosponsors: President Mariam Hassan, Vice President Kikachi Akpakwu, Senate President Taliek Lopez-DuBoff, Sen. Eleanor Potter

Whereas: Oregon per-student public higher education funding is 24% below the national average,¹ needs \$14 million more than the Governor's Recommended Budget allocates to maintain current service levels, and \$195 million more to begin meeting the national average in student funding.^{2,3}

Whereas: Revenue not provided by the state is primarily replaced by ever-increasing tuition and fee burdens on students and their families, especially in Oregon, where resident undergraduate tuition and fees at public four-year institutions are the highest of any state in the American West.⁴

Whereas: High tuition impoverishes students, leading to 39.5% of UO students reporting in the 2023-2024 academic year they struggled to pay for food, let alone textbooks.⁵

Whereas: The 2025-2026 Oregon Student Association Statewide Survey found students both statewide and at the University of Oregon considered promoting affordable housing and strengthening student basic needs support their first legislative priorities for this biennium.

¹ Higher Education Funding Trends, Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) Executive Director Ben Cannon, HECC presentation to the Senate Committee on Education ([link](#)).

² Oregon's public universities and colleges want more from the governor's proposed budget, Tiffany Camhi, OPB ([link](#)).

³ 2025–2027 Oregon Public Universities' Consolidated Funding Request, Oregon Council of Presidents ([link](#)).

⁴ Tuition and Fees, Appropriations, and Financial Aid in the West, AY 2023-24: Trends and Implications, Colleen Falkenstern, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education ([link](#)).

⁵ Undergraduate Food Security 2021-2024, Clark, Delgado-Riley, and Warnock, Office of Assessment and Research, University of Oregon ([link](#))

Whereas: The lack of state funding and the institution at UO of a Board of Trustees in 2014 has increased the university's financial dependence on external donations, shifting control of the academic mission of the university towards individual well-heeled donors.

Whereas: Donations to the University of Oregon Foundation, given for the usage of the University and often won partially due to the emotional connection of alumni to the University itself, are held outside of the scrutiny otherwise inherent to a public body, until and while they are spent by a public body.

Whereas: The Associated Students of the University of Oregon's purpose includes "the advancement of [students'] individual and collective interests both within the university and the community at large."

Whereas: The Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group (OSPIRG) has represented students on non-partisan bills in this state, including successes such as the Right to Repair Law, overcoming door-to-door lobbying by Apple, to limit electronic waste.

Whereas: UO students have long expressed a desire to protect our environment and ecology, with student referenda from the last decade overwhelmingly calling for the divestment from fossil fuels, plastic water bottle bans, and energy-efficient campus heating systems, among other demands in 2012, 2014, 2015, and 2018.

Whereas: The Oregon Student Association (OSA), a storied, vibrant, and fondly-remembered advocacy group on behalf of the entire public higher education student body of Oregon, is now defunct and a new coalition of student voices must arise.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY BY THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OREGON SENATE, ACTING UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE ASUO CONSTITUTION THAT:

1. The ASUO Senate recognizes the lack of state funding received by the University of Oregon and calls on the state to drastically increase its investment in public higher education.
2. The Senate endorses the following bills to address the desperate need for wrap-around services at the University of Oregon:
 - a. HB 2593. This bill takes important steps towards giving all students access to the state's subsidy for daycare, a necessary improvement upon HECC's Oregon

- Student Child Care Grant, which graduate students, the majority of the student parent population at UO, are ineligible for.
- b. HB 3182 (Student Basic Needs and Workforce Stabilization Act). This bill funds basic needs programming at universities, and non-profit organizations that connect low-income students to affordable housing, while creating a Task Force on Student Housing.
 - c. HB 3183. This bill creates an Open Educational Resources Program as a free public repository of educational materials professors can use in lieu of expensive textbooks and homework access codes.
3. The Senate endorses the following bills to improve higher education shared governance in this state:
- a. SB 478. Requires community college Boards of Education include a full-time student as a voting member.
 - b. HB 3213 (Foundation Sunshine Act). This bill makes public university foundations subject to public records requests like in neighboring California and Washington and over 20 other states in the U.S.
4. The Senate endorses the following bills to address the climate crisis and humanity's severe ecological impact:
- a. SB 551 (Better Bag Ban). This bill eliminates a loophole in the 2019 "Sustainable Shoppers Initiative" bill that permits restaurants to give customers thick plastic bags that are, in theory, reusable, but in practice, are thrown away.
 - b. SB 681 (Pause Act). This bill enacts a five-year moratorium in private fossil fuel investments made by PERS, the state's public employee retirement fund.
 - c. HB 3108 (Food Waste Act). This bill standardizes "best by" and "use by" terminology on food labeling and requires commercial food producers to donate, not throw away, unused or unsold food, to reduce food waste in the State.
5. Copies of this resolution will be transmitted to Governor Tina Kotek, Senate President Rob Wagner, Speaker of the House Julie Fahey, Chair of the Senate Committee on Education Senator Lew Frederick, Chair of the House Committee on Higher Education Representative Zach Hudson, and the elected officials serving UO campus communities: Sen. Floyd Prozanski and Rep. Lisa Fragala (Eugene), Sen. Lew Frederick⁶ and Rep. Tawna Sanchez (Portland), and Sen. Dick Anderson and Rep. Boomer Wright (OIMB).



⁶ Only one copy of this resolution needs to be sent to Sen. Frederick.