

Submitter: Marisol Monrroy

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 Marisol Monrroy, and I serve as the Resources Navigator at Chemeketa Community College. I am writing to express my strong support for HB 3182 and HB 3183: The Student Basic Needs and Workforce Stabilization Act. These bills will have a significant positive impact on initiatives addressing student basic needs, affordable housing, and textbook affordability, all of which are crucial for the success of our students.

Since stepping into my role on December 2nd, 2024, and officially beginning to serve students on January 6th, 2025, I've witnessed the positive impact of basic needs support on the Chemeketa Community College student body. Although I am new to my position as Resource Navigator, I have already seen how this work is helping students thrive academically by addressing their essential needs.

In just the first month of assisting students, I've supported 53 individuals, helping them meet a range of basic needs so they can stay focused on their educational goals. The outcomes I've seen in such a short time clearly demonstrate the crucial role of benefits navigators in supporting the ongoing success of our student body. One of the key reasons I am advocating for the passage of HB 3182 and HB 3183 is the critical need of housing support provided to students. With the rising cost of housing, I have been able to assist 8 of the 53 students in stabilizing their housing situations through rent payments, first-month deposits, and assistance with 10-day eviction notices. This support is highly important in allowing students to remain focused on their academic work. The passage of HB 3182 and HB 3183 will help prevent students from becoming homeless, which in turn positively impacts their ability to succeed academically.

Unfortunately, many community housing programs in the Salem area are either out of funding or have long waitlists. HB 3182 and HB 3183: The Student Basic Needs and Workforce Stabilization Act will allow me to provide timely support to students in urgent need of housing assistance. If this funding is not provided, it will negatively affect students, as the only program offering critical housing support would be eliminated, causing significant instability to the future of Oregon as it will prevent a drop-in access to education.

In just one month of being a resources navigator I have witnessed how access to resources like housing, transportation, and other basic needs can bring stability to the success of the student body. I strongly urge that HB 3182 and HB 3183, the Student Basic Needs and Workforce Stabilization Act, be funded so that Oregon's future can continue to thrive. Our next generation of teachers, doctors, project managers, and professionals in all fields deserve the opportunity to reach their full potential, and the

support provided by HB 3182 and HB 3183 is crucial in making that possible. Thank you.