

OREGON HUNGER TASK FORCE

Creating Policies for a Hunger-Free Oregon

February 13, 2025

To: House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce Development

From: Oregon Hunger Task Force

RE: Support for HB 3182 and HB 3183

Chair Hudson, Vice Chair Fragala, Vice Chair Harbick, and members of the Committee,

My name is Chris Baker, and I am the Administrator of the [Oregon Hunger Task Force](#). The Oregon Hunger Task Force was created by the legislature in 1989 to act as a resource within government and as a statewide advocate for Oregonians who are food insecure. Over the years, the Oregon Hunger Task Force (OHTF) has helped to substantially reduce hunger and food insecurity in Oregon, bringing in hundreds of millions of additional federal funds to help feed Oregonians.

This letter is written in support of HB 3182 & HB 3183, the Student Basic Needs and Workforce Stabilization Act

The OHTF has focused on the connection between hunger and learning for many years and has helped increase participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to make sure families have enough food to eat so that they can perform well at school and at work.

Pre-COVID, Oregon's general population food insecurity rate reflected that 1 in 10 Oregonians were struggling to put food on the table. Currently, 1 in 8 Oregonians are food insecure, with 1 in 6 children experiencing food insecurity. College students experience food insecurity at four times the rate of the general population with student parents and BIPOC students experiencing food insecurity at five to six times higher.

It is the recommendation of the Oregon Hunger Task Force that the state pass HB 3182 & HB 3183, the Student Basic Needs and Workforce Stabilization Act

Connecting students to benefits that address basic needs insecurity can increase skills training, college completion, and the attainment of credentials needed for careers that offer economic mobility.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Chris Baker