



February 6, 2025

To: House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce Development
From: Partners For a Hunger-Free Oregon
RE: Support for HB 3182 and HB 3183

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

My name is Sarah Weber-Ogden and I am the Executive Director at Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon. We are a statewide anti-hunger advocacy organization whose values and work are centered on creating systemic changes to end hunger and poverty.

I am writing to you today to express support for HB 3182, and HB 3183, the Student Basic Needs and Workforce Stabilization Act.

Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon has provided resource training and outreach support to students and administrators at Oregon community colleges and universities since 2018. In 2021, we were part of the coalition that helped write HB 2835, the Benefits Navigator bill. Since the passage of HB 2835, Benefits navigators have played a vital role in connecting more than 39,000 students to critical resources like food and housing support. We now have documented evidence of the importance of benefits access for students to help close their financial aid gaps and increase the likelihood of college success.

The passage of HB 2835 demonstrated a commitment by legislators to supporting Oregon's college students. Addressing food and other basic needs insecurities are not only a moral imperative but also a strategic investment in the educational attainment and future contributions of our students. By providing the necessary resources to support basic needs, we can create an environment where students can thrive academically and graduate with the skills needed to contribute to Oregon's workforce and community development.

Please support HB 3182 and HB 3183. Your support will not only empower students to overcome immediate challenges but will also contribute to the creation of a more equitable and prosperous future for our state.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I trust that you will continue to prioritize the well-being and success of Oregon's college students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Weber-Ogden'.

Sarah Weber-Ogden, Executive Director
Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon
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