



February 12th 2025

Chair Hudson, Vice-Chair Fragala, Vice-Chair Harbic and Members of the Committee.

My name is Edward Buck-Shannon and I am a Policy Associate and Quaker Voluntary Service Fellow at Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. We are a state-wide association of faith groups with more than 750 members. We operate seven direct service programs including the Northeast Emergency Food Program, the most active food pantry in Oregon, and Second Home, a program that provides host homes to houseless students aged 16-21.

Given the high cost of education, many Oregon college students struggle to afford their most basic needs like food, housing, and transportation. If a student is focused on these bare necessities how can they be expected to perform at their best in school? As the cost of living and education continue to rise this situation will only get worse as more and more students are pushed into an ever more precarious situation. These students will determine Oregon's future for decades, it is our responsibility to ensure their basic needs are met while they focus on their education.

EMO stands in full support of HB 3182 and HB 3183, the Student Basic Needs and Stabilization Act. This bill will expand on the existing and hugely successful HB 2835 from 2021, "The Benefits Navigator Bill". Which has helped more than 39,000 students access crucial resources. It's time for Oregon to once again affirm her commitment to our future and support HB 3182 and HB 3183, The Student Basic Needs and Stabilization Act. We appreciate your consideration.

Thank you,

Edward Buck-Shannon

Policy Associate, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon