

Submitter: Srihari Mohan

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce  
Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3183

Chair Hudson, Vice Chairs, Fragala, Harbick. My name is Srihari Mohan, and I am a student at the University of Oregon.

I am here today to speak in support of HB 3182 and HB 3183: The Student Basic Needs and Workforce Stabilization Act, which will make important investments in student basic needs initiatives, affordable student housing initiatives, and textbook affordability.

Through my two and a half years at the University of Oregon, I have personally faced difficulties with obtaining textbooks in multiple classes and have seen how the inaccessibility of textbooks has affected my peers as well. To begin, textbook pricing has gotten out of hand. Many students are paying hundreds of dollars per term to obtain the textbooks that they need to do their assignments and study. I try my best to not have to purchase the textbook and usually can find another way to access it; however, the biggest problems arise when the homework is not able to be completed at all without textbook access and the textbook is not accessible at all without purchase. My first experience in a class like this was my freshman year, fall term, my first term at the university, when I enrolled in my Business 101 class. I attempted to look for the textbook online without having to purchase it but realized that to even complete the homework for the class, I would have to buy the textbook through the class link because the book is linked directly to the homework. The book was priced at over 170 dollars! This was not a required course for me; it was to fill a core requirement for my degree, so I dropped that class in the first week of the term. Thankfully for me, I didn't need to take that class to graduate. But BA 101 is an intro-level business class; usually the first class business majors take in college. Without BA 101, business students cannot move on to higher-level business courses that they need for their degree. Imagine coming into your first term of college, getting ready for your first class, only to see that you aren't able to afford your textbook and can't do any of your homework. These issues students face with textbooks can significantly hinder their academic journey in college and completely set them off of their intended degree schedule.

Thank you for your time, and I hope that I can count on your support of HB 3182 and HB 3183: The Student Basic Needs and Workforce Stabilization Act.

Srihari Mohan