

Chair Hudson, Vice Chairs Fragala and Harbick, and members of the committee,

My name is Bryson Petterborg, and I'm a student at the University of Oregon. I'm writing in support of HB 3182 and HB 3183. I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB 3182 and HB 3183, the Student Basic Needs and Workforce Stabilization Act.

The University of Oregon estimates that I should be paying \$1,400 in textbooks this year. Between the cost of housing, food, and tuition, textbooks just don't fit into my budget.

Instead, I spend hours scouring for free and low-cost alternatives. I can never get the correct edition, and trade time on homework for time figuring out what's different between my version and the textbook actually used for the course.

If I can't find an affordable version of a textbook, I just go without. I compile whatever resources I can find online for free. The materials I use end up being lower quality, and less related to the course, leading my learning to suffer.

Some classes require purchasing access codes to use an online textbook and homework submission software. I've taken two classes that required purchasing access codes, and paid over \$100 in both cases. I can't show you the textbooks, because they only live online, and I lost access to the textbook after the term ended. If I wanted a refresher on the course content that I learned, I would need to purchase the textbooks again. Unless I have no other options for a course, I always drop courses that require purchasing an access code.

Nowadays, before registering for classes I check to see if they're using Open Educational Resources. Open access textbooks are a breath of fresh air. The textbooks are freely accessible online, and I can always get the latest edition.

In addition to OER's being free, they also read better than traditional textbooks. It shouldn't come as a surprise that financially accessible books are accessibly written too. Authors of OERs don't have a revenue incentive, and write with students and quality education in mind.

Since need-based financial aid like the Oregon Opportunity Grant and Pell grant don't apply to textbooks, the costs are uniquely challenging for low-income students to meet. Everyone I know who's dropped out of college has dropped out because the cost of living and textbooks were too much to keep up with. Access to OERs removes one of those pressures for students, and can save students thousands of dollars a year.

I strongly urge your support for both HB 3182 and HB 3183 to address affordability on college campuses and increase access to textbooks.