

Submitter: Rayne Vieger

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3183

Good morning Chair Hudson, Vice Chair Fragala and Harbick, and members of the committee,?

My name is Rayne Vieger, and I am an Open Educational Resources Librarian at the University of Oregon. I am here today to speak in support of HB 3183: The Student Basic Needs and Workforce Stabilization Act, which will make important investments in open educational resources, increasing textbook affordability for students across the state of Oregon.

As an OER Librarian, I support UO faculty to lower textbook costs by using OER instead of paid materials. Since 2017, 114 UO faculty have received \$165K in professional development and grant funding from Open Oregon, which has led to 10,000 students saving over \$1 million since 2017.

One of our UO students commented last year that “Professors who talk about the financial impact of textbooks, advocate for low cost materials, and provide as many free resources [as] they can make the biggest impact on me...I feel seen as a person, not just a kid in class.”

Last academic year alone, course materials costs for UO courses were over \$8 million dollars, and more faculty at UO have shared that they want to switch to OER, but redesigning their course with no additional time or resources is too labor intensive. Open Oregon grant and professional development stipends compensate that labor and incentivize faculty to make the switch to OER.?

Open Oregon’s small but mighty team also provides essential administrative support, including training for faculty across the state on topics like digital accessibility and curriculum design, and they provide a digital publishing platform for faculty to author open textbooks. This funding is so important to keep that support in place for faculty, so that they can continue to lower course materials costs for their students.

On a personal note, as someone who paid for my own graduate degree and is continuing to pay off student debt after being in my career for over 10 years, I know how challenging it can be to juggle the high cost of going to college. If we can help reduce that burden on our students, even just a little bit, we absolutely should.

Thank you so much for your time today, and I hope that I can count on your support of both HB 3182 and HB 3183!