



*The League of Women Voters of Oregon, established in 1920, is a grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.*

February 24, 2025

To: Chair [Rep. Zach Hudson](#), Vice Chairs [Rep. Lisa Fragala](#) and [Rep. Darin Harbick](#)  
and members of the [House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development](#)

Re: [HB 3182](#) – Grant program for meeting higher education students’ basic needs – **Support**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon supports HB 3182, which would direct the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to award grants to nonprofit organizations that provide affordable housing support to low-income students in higher education in this state

Our support for this bill is based on League positions stating: **The State General Fund should give high priority to financial aid for students; and When individuals cannot afford decent housing, government should provide assistance in the form of income and/or subsidized housing.**

Because of the low level of state funding for higher education, in-state tuition and fees for four-year institutions in Oregon are the 12th highest in the nation, and for 2-year institutions Oregon ranks 5th in the nation.

Related to the high cost of tuition and fees, is the fact that students need help meeting basic needs of food, housing, transportation, and childcare. A 2023 survey of Portland Community College students revealed that 56% were dealing with housing insecurity.

We urge your Support for HB 3182.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Handwritten signature of Lisa Bentson in black ink.

Lisa Bentson  
President LWVOR

Handwritten signature of Jean W. Pierce in black ink.

Jean Pierce  
Social Policy Coordinator

Handwritten signature of Charlie Bloomer in black ink.

Charlie Bloomer  
Youth Council Member