

Testimony in Support of HB 3213  
Luke Nearhood  
Coalition of Graduate Employees (CGE)  
February 25, 2025



House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development

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

For the record, my name is Luke Nearhood, and I write to you today in several capacities. I am a graduate student at Oregon State University (OSU), an employee of OSU, and a proud member of and leader within my union, the Coalition of Graduate Employees (AFT local 6069). Our union strongly endorses HB 3213, though all the words herein are my own.

A university is first and foremost, a community. A community of students, faculty, and staff. But any community requires trust to maintain, and trust requires a degree of transparency which the current foundation system does not afford.

In all the ways that matter save a quirk of incorporation, public university foundations function as organs of their respective universities. And yet, as nominally private entities they are not subject to the same public records' laws as their associated universities. This bill would go a long way to bring the level of transparency of our public university foundations more in line with what we expect of our universities.

Public university students, faculty, and staff have their working and learning conditions determined in part by the financial decisions these private foundations make. Increasing transparency will allow all members of our university communities to be more well informed about the reality of university finances as we forge a path for public higher education together.

Thank you,  
Luke Nearhood  
CGE Vice President for Political Engagement