

Submitter: Tim Cook

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce
Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3182

Chair Hudson and Vice-Chairs Fragala and Harbick,

My name is Dr. Tim Cook and I'm the President of Clackamas Community College. Every day I see students working hard to achieve their educational goals and enter the workforce. The number of these students who struggle to meet their basic needs of food and housing continues to increase. At Clackamas we do a comprehensive student survey twice a year. Fall's data indicated that 52% of respondents had been housing insecure in the last year, and 16% had been houseless. Our food pantries on all three campuses are typically cleaned out each week and last year these pantries provided food for 3,572 households, feeding 10,570 individuals. Maslow's Hierarchy of Basic Needs explains clearly that it's difficult to learn if your basic needs aren't met.

This Summer I'm spending my vacation to personally bring awareness and financial support for student's basic needs. I'll be running to each of the 17 community colleges, more than 1500 miles over 50 days. It's the equivalent of running 57 marathons in 6 weeks, an ambitious goal that has wide support from all of the community colleges. My hope is to raise awareness and funds throughout the state so these students can complete their education and achieve their dreams.

HB 3182 will also help these students. I've seen first hand the impact that Helen Paz, CCC Benefits Navigator has on students ability to get their basic needs met and complete their education. I strongly support this bill and urge the community to approve it. Thank you.