



LISA FRAGALA
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
HOUSE DISTRICT 8
FROM THE WILLAMETTE RIVER TO SPENCER BUTTE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 26, 2025

Chair Neron, Vice Chairs Dobson and McIntire, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing today in support of HB 3182 and HB 3183, the Student Basic Needs and Workforce Stabilization Act. These bills are aimed at addressing critical challenges faced by Oregon's Higher Education Students, such as increased food insecurity and housing instability, and the high cost of textbooks, childcare, and other basic needs. Through an investment of a little over \$22 million, the Student Basic Needs and Workforce Stabilization Act will provide funds to support Benefit Navigators and Basic Needs Programs, increase student access to housing and rental assistance, and support Oregon's statewide textbook affordability program, Open Educational Resources (OER).

As an educator and community college board member, I have all too frequently seen the challenges that many students face as they try to navigate rising housing costs, food insecurity, and the expense of required materials for in their classes. Lane Community College's Benefits Navigators are an incredible success story and a lifeline to the students who need these critical supports. It will have a significant impact on our most vulnerable students to not have access to benefit's navigators and it seems an oversight in the governor's budget that needs to be corrected. I've also seen firsthand the incredible benefits Open Educational Resources have for students at Lane Community College and see this as a critical support for students in higher education that needs funding.

Additionally, we all know our communities face serious challenges with affordable housing. Higher education students face unique challenges in this regard. The creation of a Student Housing Task Force to investigate barriers students face to accessing affordable housing is an important first step. I've heard frequently from students at the University of Oregon that this is the single biggest challenge they face as a barrier to being successful at the university. Most recently I heard from a student who has been sleeping in their car in the parking lot of one of our higher education institutions.

Oregon has made meaningful progress towards meeting students' needs through the Open Oregon Educational Resources textbook affordability program and the hiring of Benefits Navigators through 2021's HB 2835. We have the opportunity to build on these first steps and provide students with the resources they need through the Student Basic Needs and Workforce Stabilization Act. I urge you to join me in supporting HB 3182 and HB 3183. No student should go hungry, houseless or be priced out of education.

Sincerely,

Lisa M. Fragala

Representative Lisa Fragala
House District 8P

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