



American Association of University Professors

Academic Freedom for a Free Society

February 27, 2025

House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development

Re: House Bill HB 3182 and HB 3183 – Support

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

On behalf of the more than 6,300 members of the American Association of University Professors in Oregon, our collective bargaining chapters at the University of Oregon, Portland State University, Oregon State University, and Oregon Institute of Technology, and our faculty members in advocacy chapters across Oregon, we urge you to support HB 3182 and HB 3183.

Students in Oregon's public universities cannot achieve their higher education goals when their basic needs are not met. A [2021 national survey conducted by Temple University](#) found that nearly 3 in 5 higher education students experience basic needs insecurity. Your support for HB 3182 and HB 3183 will help to ensure that students in Oregon face fewer barriers to their success by creating grants that our public institutions can use to fund basic needs programming. Such support will help to raise the completion rates at our 2-year and 4-year institutions by ensuring that hunger, lack of housing, or other related challenges do not derail Oregon's students and force them to abandon their long-term goals in order to survive.

Securing affordable housing is particularly challenging for students in our state, and the housing taskforce and funding to support affordable housing non-profits outlined in HB 3182 are particularly important for helping Oregon's students. According to [Oregon's Department of Land Conservation and Development](#), in 2022 nearly every community that has a public university or community college qualifies as being severely-rent burdened, and given that rents increase far more quickly than wages do in our state, we can expect that the 2024 report will show that the situation has grown even more dire for all Oregonians, particularly students.

Finally, since textbooks have become increasingly expensive over the last 20 years, we urge you to support HB 3183, which would appropriate funds for the Open Education

Resources Program. This program will fund the creation of textbook materials tailored to meet the needs of Oregon's students at no cost to the students themselves, thereby reducing the overall cost of an education at Oregon's public institutions of higher learning. Furthermore, by directing these funds to faculty members at our public universities and community colleges for the creation of these materials, we are better utilizing the vast experience and knowledge of Oregon's faculty and sharing that expertise widely for the benefit of all, not just students in our state.

As a state, we must support our students with whatever resources they need so that they can focus on their studies. This is a prudent investment in the future of our workforce, and the money spent this biennium will pay dividends as students from underrepresented backgrounds receive the support they need to uplift themselves, their families, and their communities through higher education and the expanded opportunities that come from that education.

Please support HB 3182 and HB 3183. Thank you for your consideration.

Victor Reyes
Executive Director, AAUP Oregon