

Submitter: Kennedy Schade

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce  
Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3182

I am highly in favor of any bill that continues funding for basic needs programs at public universities and community colleges. My name is Kennedy Schade and I currently serve as the Assistant Director of Academic Support in the office of Student Success and Advising at Western Oregon University (WOU) -- at WOU, my job largely consists of advising students and coordinating some of our academic support programs like tutoring and peer-academic coaching. But "support" at a university is so much bigger than just academic concerns. There are many times students come to me to discuss academic concerns and we realize their academics have been influenced by things like food insecurity or struggles to maintain their basic needs. If those needs cannot be covered first, I have no idea how a student is expected to do their best in their courses. Many times we have to tackle these difficult issues and I am lucky that at WOU, we have a department called "Abby's House" which is home to our Basic Needs Coordinator who oversees things like our Stitch Closet, Food Pantry, and is overall a wonderful resource for students to turn to when they are having a tough time and need basic needs assistance. WOU is lucky to have Abby's House and all the great staff they have that make the college experience easier on our students -- programs like this deserve to maintain funding because as mentioned before, our basic needs must come first before we are able to focus on other things. Abby's House does great work and our campus community is better by having them around.