

Testimony in Support of HB 3182 & HB 3183
Submitted By: Senator Anthony Broadman

Chair Hudson, Vice-Chair Fragala, Vice-Chair Harbick, and Members of the Committee,

I represent a district that is home to both a university and a community college. Today, I am here in strong support of HB 3182 and HB 3183, the Student Basic Needs and Workforce Stabilization Act—critical legislation that will directly address the growing crisis of affordability and access to basic needs for Oregon’s college students.

Higher education should be a path to opportunity, not an experience defined by hunger, housing insecurity, and financial strain. Yet, students across our state report that they struggle to afford food, housing, textbooks, and transportation—barriers that threaten their ability to stay in school and complete their degrees. These bills take a targeted, strategic approach to alleviating these challenges by investing over \$22 million in three key areas:

1. Student Basic Needs Programming (\$10M)

Benefit Navigators at our colleges and universities are on the front lines, connecting students to essential services like food assistance, healthcare, and emergency aid. By expanding funding for these programs, we ensure that students facing financial hardship have the support they need to stay enrolled and succeed academically.

2. Affordable Student Housing Initiatives (\$6.5M)

Lack of stable, affordable housing is a top concern for many students. This funding will support College Housing Northwest in providing housing assistance and rental support, while a Student Housing Task Force will identify and address barriers to affordable housing solutions. Housing insecurity should not be a roadblock to earning a degree.

3. Textbook Affordability and Open Educational Resources (\$5.2M)

Textbooks and course materials are a hidden but significant expense for students, often costing hundreds of dollars per term. Investing in Open Oregon Educational Resources will expand no-cost and low-cost textbook options, saving students money and making education more accessible.

These bills represent a bipartisan, student-centered approach to supporting college affordability, retention, and success. These bills will make an immediate impact for students in my district and across Oregon, ensuring they can focus on their studies instead of worrying about their next meal or whether they can afford rent.

I urge the Committee’s full support of HB 3182 and HB 3183 to create a stronger, more equitable higher education system for Oregon’s students.

Thank you for your time and consideration.