

Good morning Chair Hudson, Vice Chairs Fragala and Harbick, and the members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Rook Smith and I am a student at Southern Oregon University. I am here today in support of **HB 3183**, part of the **The Student Basic Needs and Workforce Stabilization Act**. This bill specifically focuses on funding **Open Educational Resources** and **textbook affordability**.

I'm currently in my senior year and anticipate graduating this June with a degree in Sociology and Anthropology. With three and a half years of coursework under my belt, I can say that I've seen a variety of textbooks and teaching methods while at college.

I had a \$400, digital-only textbook for a class that I lost access to after the term ended; a number of classes that have required multiple, expensive textbooks that you can't get anywhere but the campus bookstore; or just classes that are taught straight from the textbook, with little additional input from the professor.

All of these issues could have been solved by an increased access to and emphasis on something like Open Educational Resources. Open Educational Resources are no-cost, open access materials that could include textbooks, lecture content, or other educational tools. This allows professors to provide reading to their students that does not come as an extra cost in addition to tuition.

In my classes where professors instruct using Open Educational Resources, I've found that the professors are far more engaged in the content (because they hand-picked it) and I feel like I am getting what I paid for. With the cost of education, students deserve a quality education, from quality materials that does not come as an extra expense in addition to tuition. I am hopeful that I will see your alls support on HB 3183 to grant students access to these additional resources that they desperately need.

Thank you.

Rook Smith (they/them)