



Representative Hoa Nguyen
Oregon House District 48

HB 3183 - OREGON OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

2/27 House Higher Education and Workforce Development

My name is Hoa Nguyen, and I am the state representative for House District 48, which includes outer Southeast Portland and North Clackamas County.

I am an educator deeply committed to ensuring equitable access to quality learning materials for all students in Oregon. I write to express my strong support for HB 3183, which provides critical funding to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) for the Open Educational Resources (OER) Program. This bill represents a significant step toward making higher education more affordable and accessible by reducing the financial burden of course materials on students.

The rising cost of textbooks and other instructional materials has become a substantial barrier to student success. According to a 2023 report from the U.S. Public Interest Research Group (PIRG), the cost of traditional textbooks has increased by over 180% since 2000, outpacing inflation and tuition growth. Studies show that nearly two-thirds of students have forgone purchasing required materials due to cost, which directly impacts their academic performance.

The OER Program helps alleviate these challenges by funding the development and adoption of free, high-quality educational materials that are openly licensed. Research from the Babson Survey Research Group indicates that students in courses using OER perform as well as or better than their peers in courses with traditional textbooks, demonstrating that cost savings do not come at the expense of quality.

By allocating \$4.5 million to the HECC for OER initiatives, HB 3183 will:

- Support faculty in adopting and creating openly licensed textbooks, reducing costs for students.
- Expand access to free and low-cost materials in high-enrollment courses, benefiting the greatest number of students.
- Encourage collaboration among institutions to share and improve OER resources, leading to a more sustainable and inclusive education system.
- Enhance student retention and success by ensuring that all learners have access to the materials they need from day one.

Oregon has been a leader in promoting affordability in higher education, and HB 3183 continues this commitment. Investing in OER is an investment in student success, economic mobility, and educational equity. I urge the committee to support this bill and ensure that financial barriers do not prevent students from reaching their full academic potential.

Thank you for your time and consideration.