



February 28th, 2025

TO: House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development
FR: Brenna Stevens, Campaign Associate, Oregon State Public Interest Research Group (OSPIRG)
RE: Support for the Student Basic Needs and Workforce Stabilization Act (HB 3182 and HB 3183)

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

My name is Brenna Stevens, and I am a campaign associate at OSPIRG. We are a statewide, member-based organization representing thousands of Oregonians across the state. We stand up for the public on behalf of their health, safety, and wellbeing.

I am writing in strong support of HB 3182 and HB 3183: The Student Basic Needs and Workforce Stabilization Act.

College tuition is already expensive and out of reach for many. On top of that, students are struggling to keep up with day to day living expenses and soaring textbook costs. Students shouldn't have to skip meals, leave bills unpaid, or take on additional work hours in order to afford a college education or the books they need for school. Even with financial aid and scholarships, the financial burden of meeting basic needs can easily become a barrier to attending college.

That's why Oregon needs to invest in basic needs programming and open educational resources to ensure that students across the state are able to attend college and afford their textbooks without having to sacrifice their next meal, their wellbeing, or their health. Adequate funding for basic needs programming is essential for ensuring that college students can focus on their studies without the distraction and stress of unmet basic needs.

OSPIRG urges your support of HB 3182 and HB 3183 to ensure that students in Oregon can access a college education without putting their health and wellbeing in jeopardy.

Sincerely,

Brenna Stevens

Campaign Associate,

OSPIRG