

Submitter: Audrey Schlotter

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce  
Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3182

Chair Hudson, vice chairs Fragala and Harbick, and members of the committee, For the record, my name is Audrey Schlotter, and I serve as the President of the Associated Students of Oregon State University, representing over 24,000 students across our campus. I'm here today to voice my strong support for HB 3182, a bill that recognizes something many of us in higher education already know: students can't succeed academically when they're struggling to meet their most basic needs. HB 3182 directly addresses some of the biggest barriers standing between Oregon students and their success.

At OSU, we're incredibly proud of our Basic Needs Center, which is considered one of the strongest in the state. But that's not by accident — it's because our students tax themselves through our incidental fee to fund programs that help their peers access food, housing, transportation, and other essentials. That's students stepping up to support each other when the state and other systems have fallen short.

And while that student investment is powerful, there's only so much students can do. Many of the same students funding these programs are also the ones struggling to afford rent, skipping meals, or working extra hours just to stay in school. They cannot continue to shoulder this burden alone.

That's why HB 3182 matters so much. By investing state dollars into basic needs programs and affordable housing support, this bill recognizes that ensuring students can meet their basic needs is a shared responsibility — not just the responsibility of students themselves. It would allow us to continue our peer navigator programs, which have been so effective at reducing the fear and stigma around asking for help, and it would help institutions across Oregon build the kind of student-centered support systems OSU has worked so hard to create.

If we want students to succeed, graduate, and contribute to our communities, and economy, we have to invest in their ability to meet their basic needs today. I urge you not only to support HB 3182 but convince your peers.