

Submitter: Malissa Larson
On Behalf Of: Students in higher education
Committee: House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce Development
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3182

Submitter: Malissa B. Larson
On behalf of Western Oregon University
Topic: HB3182 Chair Huson, Vice Chair Fragala and Harbick, and members of the committee,

Hello,

My name is Malissa Larson, and I am honored to serve as the Dean of Students and Associate Vice President for Student Affairs at Western Oregon University. I am writing to express my strong support for the approval and funding of HB 3182, which addresses critical issues such as student basic needs, affordable housing, and textbook affordability.

With 17 years of experience in higher education and my background as a vocational rehabilitation counselor in the Department of Human Resources, I have witnessed firsthand the significant challenges students face in securing their basic needs. In my current role, I have the privilege of working closely with the department that provides essential resources to students. What I confidently share is that demand for these services is immense and continues to grow.

HB 3182 contains provisions that enhance three proven programs aimed at addressing students' immediate needs while also fostering their long-term success and well-being. These initiatives are essential not only for helping students throughout their academic journey but also for ensuring their overall well-being and future stability.

I urge the committee members to prioritize these initiatives and allocate the necessary resources to support their successful implementation. Together, we can create a brighter future for all students in our state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Malissa B. Larson
Dean of Students and Associate Vice President for Student Affairs
Western Oregon University