

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

My name is Gisela Foster, and I am the Multicultural Student Success Coordinator Mt. Hood Community College. I am a member of the Oregon Community Table on Postsecondary Education and Training, Oregon's first statewide advocacy group dedicated to transforming our postsecondary education system through policy change.

I am writing in support of HB 3182 and HB 3183: The Student Basic Needs and Workforce Stabilization Act, which will make important investments in student basic needs initiatives, affordable student housing initiatives, and textbook affordability. Everyday, I witness firsthand the numerous challenges that students face—challenges that go beyond the classroom and directly impact their ability to succeed. Students are grappling with insecurity in essential areas such as food, housing, transportation, childcare, textbooks, and more. These basic needs are not luxuries—they are fundamental for students to stay enrolled, engage in their studies, and complete their education.

This bill is incredibly important to me, not just as a professional, but as someone who is deeply invested in the success of our students. I have seen the difference that support for basic needs can make in the lives of students—how it can alleviate stress, restore hope, and provide the stability they need to thrive academically. By passing this bill, we can ensure that our students are not only surviving but thriving, with the tools and resources they need to build their futures.

Supporting their basic needs is not just about providing food or housing—it's about giving them the opportunity to succeed, to complete their education, and to reach their fullest potential.

Thank you for your time, and I hope that I can count on your support of HB 3182 and HB 3183: The Student Basic Needs and Workforce Stabilization Act. Students cannot wait any longer!