

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

My name is Sophia Gilbert, and I am a student at MHCC. 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.

I am 16 years old and for the last 3 years my father hasn't played any role in my life for my sister and I. Our family doesn't have enough money to proceed with divorce arrangements in this economy and pay for a lawyer. My dad has paid no child support and yet I live with my mother and sister. My family hasn't been in the best financial state. I started to go to MHCC and take classes. My father is a mechanical genius and somehow got rid of our internet and my family wasn't able to figure out how to fix it.

I was able to get a router from the student basic needs center which has really helped me and my family in being able to do homework. I was in a math class where I needed a graphing calculator and the student basic needs center supplied that as well. And I am ever so thankful for them helping me.

I know that many people have struggled with the same things as me or even worse. I know many people who have gotten help from Student Basic Needs Center and I know that there will be someone who needs something here at MHCC whether that is food, housing, internet, or even a calculator.

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!