

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

My name is Anasharee Brown, and I am a student here at Mt. Hood Community College. I also work in the student union. 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.

As a dedicated student majoring in psychology at Mt. Hood Community College and striving to become a psychiatrist, I have faced numerous challenges balancing academic responsibilities, financial burdens, and personal well-being, experiencing setback after setback. Ensuring that student basic needs, affordable textbooks, and affordable housing are met is not just a necessity for me but for many students like me. Having these supports helps us keep pushing forward and prevents us from being dragged down by overwhelming challenges and burdens.

For example, in my third term, I constantly juggled coursework and work, stressing about how I would afford textbooks each term and how I would pay rent. I had to choose between my educational needs and having a roof over my head. It was an ongoing battle to manage my finances while keeping up with my studies.

With your help, we can alleviate some of this stress. Students like myself would be able to focus on our studies, personal growth, and future goals without the burden of financial hardships. Supporting the Student Basic Needs and Workforce Stabilization Act ensures that students like me have the resources and support needed to thrive academically and personally.

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