

Testimony

To: Co-Chair Lieber, Co-Chair Sanchez, and Members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee

From: Brayden Higley, Student, University of Oregon

Date: March 22nd, 2025

RE: Support for HB 3182 and HB 3183

Co-Chair Lieber, Co-Chair Sanchez, and members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee,

For the record my name is Brayden Higley, I am an undergraduate student at the University of Oregon, and I come before you in support of HB 3182 and HB 3183.

Students are struggling every day to afford basic needs like food and rent. College students, especially those coming from low-income households shouldn't have to choose between going to school and eating a meal. There is simply a lack of options for students, this is why I strongly support HB 3182 and HB 3183.

These bills, in total, would provide over 22 million dollars in funding for

- support and expansion of the benefit navigator program
- Funding for Rental assistance for Oregon's students
- The creation of a Student Housing Task Force
- Funding for Oregon Educational Resources, which would continue the expansion of no-cost and low-cost textbooks for Oregonians

Given that the Trump administration is actively working to dismantle the Department of Education, support from our legislators has never been more crucial. We as students are in crisis, and we are done waiting for our legislators to recognize us as a priority. Going to sleep hungry **SHOULD NOT** be a requirement to receive your degree. I hope I can count on your support for HB 3182 and HB 3183.

Sincerely,
Brayden Higley