

Dear Chairs Sollman and Ruiz, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the work that you do to support education across our state.

My name is Reverend Kimberly Puttman. I am a faculty member at Oregon Coast Community College and Chemeketa Community College. I am speaking in support of SB5525, because our students and our state need us.

You may wonder why I am testifying as an educator and a minister, when I am careful to keep my specific religious beliefs out of the classroom and out of the halls of government.

The answer is compassion. All faith traditions share a commitment to feed the hungry, tend the sick, and care for people in their communities. My work, no matter where I am, is anchored in these values. These bills help us care for vulnerable college students.

Like other educators, I listen compassionately to my students. They tell me about their struggles to keep a roof over their head, care for their kids, and do homework all at the same time. We need this funding to ensure that these students graduate and become the trained workforce that underpins the economic success of our state.

Similarly, I am speaking in support of Open Oregon Educational Resources, which would be funded as part of SB5525. I am proud to be a sociology discipline lead, and the lead author for [Inequality and Interdependence: Social Problems and Social Justice](#). I know this program works for students, educators, and our state. Let me explain:

Funding Open Oregon Educational Resources through SB5525 works for students.

Obviously, when students use free textbooks developed by Open Oregon Educational Resource, they save money.

Also, when students use the free materials created by Oregonians for Oregonians, they succeed. They are more engaged in their classes and more confident students. Our students learn more.

In addition, when students participate in Open Oregon Educational Resource projects, they innovate.

When we piloted our textbook at OCCC, students responded. They created the Shark Shack, our basic needs closet. At the Shark Shack, our OCCC Sharks can pick up a toothbrush, a warm coat, or some spaghetti to feed their kids dinner.

We were also able to discuss the devastation of the Echo Mountain Fire, part of Oregon's Labor Day Fires of 2020. Stories of our local rebuilding became [part of our open Social Problems textbook](#).

Now, what we learned about recovery from natural disasters can be shared with students and communities across the state.

By funding these bills you are supporting student savings, learning, and innovation.

In addition, funding Open Oregon Educational Resources through SB5525 works for teachers.

This week, you'll be reminded that teachers need our compassion also. The funding in SB5525 also improves working conditions for teachers. By using free textbooks and courses which focus on issues that face Oregon, instructors can focus on teaching rather than creating content.

And as my OCCC Teacher of the Year and Open Oregon Open Pedagogy Instructor of the Year awards can attest, faculty who are involved in Open Oregon become better teachers. Because we learn with experts and each other, we teach more effectively.

Funding Open Oregon Educational Resources through SB5525 works for Oregon.

In the nearly 10 years that Open Oregon has been funded, we have worked with thousands of instructors and students, creating books that matter such as [Forest Measurements](#) and [Portland People and Places](#).

We focus on meeting the needs of Oregon students in innovative and effective ways. In doing so, we ensure that we are developing the skilled, thoughtful, and compassionate workforce that Oregonians rely on.

I urge you to support SB5525 for our students, our teachers, and our state. Our students need your compassion and your vote.