

Submitter: Seamus Wood
On Behalf Of: University of Oregon Student workers
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

Greetings, my name is Seamus Wood and I'm a long time Eugene resident: a student at the University of Oregon double majoring in Italian and Sociology; and I am a student worker on campus employed as an Italian TA. My job is critical for helping fellow Italian students build their skills with informal speech through the programs I run and the help I give within their classes.

While I enjoy my actual work I am still vulnerable to the harm caused by the University's month long pay period. Just before the start of fall term I broke my leg, which wiped out my savings and limited my transportation options; this was a really expensive and stressful time. Despite starting working on October 7th I was not paid until November 25th. There was a two week period where I had literally \$15 in my bank account despite having worked for a month at that time. Paying for transportation and food became impossible until a friend lent me enough money to get me to my first paycheck. ,

While the University of Oregon illegally waiting longer than 35 days is harmful on its own, the real solution would be for the university administration to implement a two week pay period as outlined in our union UOSW's PAY CYCLE article to bring it up to a standard met by every single other job I have had since I started working in high school. We understand that this is an uncertain time for higher education funding and that these changes will take time and have given them till fall of 2026 to implement this pay period effectively.

It is financially negligent of the university to use tax dollars and student tuition to give themselves raises while underpaying student workers. We are not asking the state for any funding, but we are asking all legislators present to please reach out to University of Oregon administrators TONIGHT and urge them to reach a tentative agreement on our PAY CYCLE article with our union UOSW tomorrow in bargaining so that thousands of my coworkers and I are not forced to go on strike. Thank you for your time.