

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

My name is Jazmin Ramos, and I am a student at Mt. Hood Community College. 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 believe you should support the student's basic needs because there are people who do not have a support system out of school, and especially for first-time parents or single parents.

My mom was seventeen years old when she came to the U.S. She had no family here, when she went to the doctor, she found out that she was three months pregnant. On top of that, my dad used to manipulate her by telling her that she was going to get deported if she ever looked for help in places like our schools. Since my mom did not have any resources available like food stamps, she had to find a way to survive and keep us alive. So she would go into the stores and open the dino yogurts for us to have something to eat. This is a perfect example of people never knowing what is going on and what people go through. My mom's story is why I care about the Students' Basic Needs, affordable textbooks, and affordable housing.

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!