

Chair Hudson, Vice-Chair Fragala, Vice-Chair Harbick, and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Winsvey Campos (she/her), and I represent Senate District 18, which includes Aloha, Beaverton, Hillsboro, and parts of unincorporated Washington County. I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB 3182 and 3183, better known as the Student Basic Needs and Workforce Stabilization Act.

These two bills would see \$22 million allocated to help Oregon students meet their basic needs while attending college. Impacts of this funding would be immediate and long-lasting, with money going to affordable housing initiatives, textbook affordability, and basic needs programming. The \$10 million funding ask for basic needs programming marks a significant investment in the health and well-being of students, from paying for textbooks to preventing hunger and housing insecurity.

At its core, this bill is about empowering students to prioritize their coursework instead of worrying about where their next meal might come from or if they will be able to come up with rent to keep them housed for the term. For so many of us, financial hardship has been considered a part of the college experience- a trial to be overcome, one with lasting impacts on our ability for success. How can we ask students to invest in themselves and our community once they graduate when we don't invest in them now. I can recall difficult decisions between paying for books or rent, or skipping meals to stretch out the budget as far as possible. Food and housing insecurity have become a sad reality for too many college students in Oregon. However, just as we have permitted these problems to fester for so long, we can just as easily decide this is unacceptable.

That's why I am so proud to join such a bipartisan and diverse group of legislators who recognize the urgency of supporting Oregon students. HB 3182 and 3183 present a real opportunity to alleviate some of the financial burdens preventing students from reaching their full potential. By prioritizing food and housing security, as well as affordable educational resources, we are creating a stronger and more equitable higher education system in Oregon. Not only can we improve outcomes in the classroom, but we can also increase graduation rates and give our students a running start as they make investments in our communities, economy, and in themselves.

I respectfully urge the committee's full support of these measures.

Thank you for your time and consideration,



Winsvey Campos
State Senator, District 18