

Submitter: Spencer Pool
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce Development
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3182

Chair Hudson, Vice Chairs Fragala and Harbick, and members of the committee,

My name is Spencer Pool, I am a Freshman student at the University of Oregon.

I am here today to speak in support of HB 3182 and HB 3183: The Student Basic Needs and Workforce Stabilization Act, which make important investments in student basic needs initiatives, affordable student housing initiatives, and textbook affordability.

This bill will impact many of my peers here at the University and incoming high school-age students deciding where to apply to school. When I was applying to University, I chose where to apply and attend for the most part based on housing costs. I live in the city of Eugene and chose to attend the U of O because I could live at home, saving on housing costs. If housing costs were more affordable I would have considered other options but due to housing costs, my choices were limited. These Bills would allow students in my position to better attend a university of their choice.

Another problem here at the U of O is the cost of textbooks. For many general education classes, the cost of textbooks is between 80 and 150 dollars per class. This cost greatly impacts students on scholarships and low income and their ability to choose classes that are required to graduate. This is an added cost that many students cannot afford to pay. Additionally, many of the textbooks are only offered online and access to the textbooks expires after the class ends so the student cannot keep the textbook for later use. This also impacts students' grades due to the assignments for the class only being accessible through the textbook which further marginalizes students who cannot afford to pay for the textbooks.

For these reasons and more, I urge you to support HB 3182 and HB 3183