



Representative Hoa Nguyen  
Oregon House District 48

HB 3182 - STUDENT BASIC NEEDS

2/27 House Higher Education and Workforce Development

My name is Hoa Nguyen, and I am the State Representative for House District 48, which includes outer Southeast Portland and North Clackamas County.

I am honored to provide testimony in support of House Bill 3182. As an educator dedicated to the success of Oregon's students, I have witnessed firsthand the critical need for expanded support services that address students' basic needs, particularly in the areas of housing, food security, and transportation. I strongly urge you to pass this bill, as it is a vital step toward ensuring equitable access to higher education for all students, regardless of their socioeconomic status.

Every day, I see students struggling with challenges beyond the classroom that directly impact their ability to succeed. Many of my students are balancing their coursework while working multiple jobs, caring for families, or even facing housing insecurity. The lack of stable housing and access to affordable food are major barriers that affect students' academic performance, mental well-being, and, ultimately, their ability to graduate. A recent survey by the Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice found that nearly half of college students in the U.S. experience some form of housing insecurity, while food insecurity affects more than one-third. These numbers reflect a crisis that demands immediate legislative action.

House Bill 3182 provides much-needed relief by directing the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to administer grants that fund basic needs programming at public institutions of higher education. These funds will enable colleges and universities to expand food pantries, emergency housing assistance, transportation subsidies, and other essential services that directly impact student well-being. By basing grant distribution on the percentage of Oregon Opportunity Grant recipients, HB 3182 ensures that resources are allocated where they are most needed.

Additionally, this bill establishes the Task Force on Student Housing, which will examine barriers to affordable housing and propose policy recommendations. As an educator, I know that access to stable, affordable housing directly correlates with student retention and success. By prioritizing research and action on this issue, Oregon is taking a proactive approach to dismantling systemic obstacles that hinder student achievement.

Investing in student support services is not just an educational issue—it is an economic one. When students can focus on their studies without the constant stress of meeting basic needs, they are more likely to complete their degrees, enter the workforce prepared, and contribute to Oregon's economy. HB 3182 is an investment in our future, ensuring that higher education remains accessible and that students have the support they need to succeed.

As an educator, I urge you to pass HB 3182 to address the growing crisis of student basic needs insecurity. By doing so, you are affirming that all students, regardless of their financial circumstances, deserve a fair opportunity to achieve their academic and career aspirations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.