

Submitter: TJ Rabosky
On Behalf Of: Western Oregon University
Committee: House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce Development
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3182

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 3182, which seeks to provide essential funding and resources for basic needs programming at colleges and universities across Oregon.

As a professional staff member at Western Oregon University, I have seen firsthand the critical need for these programs. Students cannot focus on their education when they are uncertain about where their next meal will come from, how they will afford transportation to class, or even where they will sleep at night. These challenges create significant barriers to academic success and personal well-being. We cannot expect success and prosperity from our students if we are not setting them up for success.

Funding basic needs programs is a vital step toward breaking cycles of financial insecurity. Many students have never been taught how to access essential resources like SNAP benefits, financial aid, or housing assistance. By investing in these programs, we empower students with the knowledge and support they need to navigate these systems and build a stable foundation for their future.

This bill is crucial not only to students' ability to live and learn but to their survival. We cannot expect success and prosperity from our students if we are not setting them up for success. Investing in our students with House Bill 3182 is an investment in Oregon's future.