

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

Chair Huson, Vice Chair Fragala and Harbick, and members of the committee,

My name is Matt Bisek, and I am the Executive Director of the Oregon TRIO Association. I am writing in strong support of HB 3182 and HB 3183: The Student Basic Needs and Workforce Stabilization Act, which will make critical investments in student basic needs initiatives, affordable student housing initiatives, and textbook affordability.

On behalf of the nearly 12,000 TRIO students across Oregon, I urge you to pass these bills to ensure that low-income, first-generation, and underserved students have the fundamental resources they need to succeed in higher education. TRIO programs serve students who face significant barriers to college completion, including food insecurity, housing instability, and limited access to affordable textbooks. The rising cost of living and educational expenses threaten student persistence and degree attainment, forcing many to choose between rent, transportation, and essential learning materials.

The Student Basic Needs and Workforce Stabilization Act would directly support students by:

- Expanding affordable student housing initiatives to address the growing housing insecurity crisis on college campuses.
- Increasing access to food assistance and other essential student services so students don't sacrifice their education to meet basic needs.
- Lowering the cost of textbooks and course materials, which disproportionately impacts low-income students and hinders academic success.

I have seen firsthand how these barriers impact TRIO students—many work multiple jobs while juggling full course loads. Without additional state investment in their basic needs, too many talented and motivated students will struggle to complete their degrees, affecting Oregon's workforce and long-term economic stability.

I urge the committee to support HB 3182 and HB 3183 to ensure that Oregon's students have the resources they need to succeed in higher education and beyond. Thank you for your time and for prioritizing student success.

Sincerely,

Matt Bisek
Executive Director
Oregon TRIO Association