

Submitter: David Wieland
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 David Wieland, and I am proud to report that I am no longer a student -- I received my graduate degree certificate email today! I am writing in support of HB 3182 and HB 3183: The Student Basic Needs and Workforce Stabilization Act, which will make important investments in student basic needs initiatives, affordable student housing initiatives, and textbook affordability.

I worked full-time while attending PSU as a graduate student, used supports such as the food pantry, and graduated with more debt than I am comfortable with. Pursuing education, investing in a career, and meeting workforce needs should not require sacrificing a basic standard of living while accumulating debt. I was lucky to not have experienced the type of small emergency that would have sent me over the edge -- indefinitely postponing graduation and degree completion. But plenty of other students do experience those disruptions. This legislation would make the difference that so many students need to complete their education and affirm their dignity in the process.

Thank you for your time, and I hope that I can count on your support of HB 3182 and HB 3183: The Student Basic Needs and Workforce Stabilization Act. Students cannot wait any longer!