

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

Testimony for the House Education Committee on HB-3182 and HB-3183

Good afternoon, Chair Neron, Vice Chairs Hudson and Wright, and other members of the House Education Committee.

My name is Jamie LeCoe, and I am currently a student at Portland State University in Portland, Oregon. I am writing you today to submit testimony in support of HB-3182, and HB-3183.

The Student and Workforce Stabilization Acts. A strategic investment of \$22 million dollars to support Higher Education Students with basic needs, affordable housing, textbooks and open education resources.

I am a 52-year-old returning student. My mother was a first-generation college student, a single mother of two, when she moved us from Albany Oregon to Portland back in 1976. With housing and food assistance programs, years of hard work and sacrifices – she was able to graduate and fulfill her desire to give back to the communities that supported her – as a higher education professor herself.

By the time I was college age, housing, food, tuition and other basic needs had soared in cost. Many of the programs that helped my mom had been cut from Oregon's budget. Without programs in place to support students, struggling with housing and food insecurities, college is just out of reach. It's been because of these reasons that I have had to drop out twice over the years. It is only because my son is now grown, and can help me with housing, that I can try again to graduate – for the third time.

Members of the committee, these bills before you are vital to our communities here in Oregon. It's time again for us to invest in Oregon by supporting the people who are aspiring to fill workforce positions in our state – that require a higher education. Many students, and their families, need support with housing, food, textbooks, and other basic needs to stay in. This is an investment not only in people, but in our state's industries, and future.

Members of the committee, I thank you for hearing me today. I appreciate your time, and your consideration on this important matter. I look forward to your YES votes – in support of HB- 3182 and HB-3183. Thank you again.

Sincerely,
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