



### **OSA 2012 Textbook Affordability Bill Testimony: HB 4058**

Good afternoon Co-chair Dembrow, Co-Chair Johnson, and members of the committee. Thank you for allowing me to speak today. My name is Deven Baremore, I am a part of Eastern Oregon University's Student Government and I am a board member of the Oregon Student Association. My peers and I have traveled from La Grande today to speak to you about the textbook affordability bill and talk with our elected officials about access and affordability of Oregon's post-secondary education system.

Regional campuses are points of access in this state. Students at EOU are very price sensitive and we know that a disproportionate cost of our education is the ever growing cost of textbooks.

Last term I spent \$462 on textbooks. That is the equivalent of 20% of my tuition for one term at EOU. Furthermore regional campuses are at risk of not having the 3.5% holdback returned which at EOU might mean we have to max out our tuition increases again this year. It's also possible EOU will go above the budget note you all set to create tuition ceilings at our schools. With the grave reality of the increasing cost of education we need to put together this task force to address at least one aspect of the constantly rising cost.

We can be doing more, but with the ever dwindling state support of regional campuses we can't simply purchase textbooks for our library. We need creative solutions, we need collaboration and bulk purchasing with other institutions. This task force will address creative solutions to our rising cost. We also appreciate the seat for bookstore owners and other stakeholders. Lasting solutions have to include all stakeholders.

Please seriously consider the importance of this bill and vote yes on HB 4058.