



Good afternoon Co-chair Dembrow, Co-Chair Johnson, and members of the committee. Thank you for allowing me to speak today. My name is Tiffany Dollar , I am the board chair for the Oregon Student Association. OSA represents over 100,000 students from public community colleges and universities across the state. At our last board meeting we took a vote to unanimously support HB 4058.

We need to find a way to lower the cost of education. This bill is a good start, textbook costs are a unbounded contributor to the constant rise in the price of education. We talk a lot about tuition and financial aid, but if you can't afford your books there is no real chance of succeeding in the classroom.

As a student at Clackamas Community College and now Portland State University I spend hundreds of dollars a term on my textbooks. I have a full load and work almost full time. At the risk of sounding dramatic, you should know that when I go to buy a book I have to think seriously about how that will affect my grocery money that month. Students are constantly makes choices between books and other day to day necessities. Last term one of my colleagues at Lane Community College spent over hundred dollars \$735 dollars on science textbooks. I ask you when in the last century has lower division chemistry changed.

This bill asks that the boards of education and the Oregon University System look into ways to reduce textbooks costs and as students we know there are a number of ways to do that.

- Some student governments use student fees to increase their library's textbook bank.
- Some student groups help their peers buy and sell their books to each other, but that only works if professors commit to using older versions of the book.
- Students have worked with bookstores to keep publishers from bundling books together so you only have to purchase what you need.
- Student appreciate when professors assign homework problems in the syllabus from the old and new versions of the textbook.
- Lastly, students across the state have worked with professors to see on-line textbooks as a real option for their classrooms.

Students have tried to tackle this issue and now we would like the state to commit to lowering the costs of textbooks. Even with all these cost savings, students are still paying an average of \$900 a year for textbooks.

On another note, this was the first year universities rolled fees into the cost of tuition so that financial aid would cover both tuition and fees, but the cost of textbooks although crucial to succeeding in the classroom, was not included in that new figure. This is because the cost of textbooks is different for every student. We need to find a way to better anticipate the cost of success so students can take loans and seek the financial aid they truly need. Please seriously consider the importance of this bill and vote yes on HB 4058.