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Chair Holvey, Vice-chairs Lively and Richardson and members of the committee,

For the record my name is Sara Shepherd and I am a student at Lane Community College in Eugene and a member of the Oregon Student Association.

I would like to start off by saying that the potential to require more transparency in the dealings with financial firms that handle student money is a big and exciting step for students like me, who seek an affordable education.

For the sake of getting straight to the point: students are being charged a hidden fee by Higher One for using their PIN. When my colleagues and I ran a campus-wide campaign at Lane Community College, which informed students how to avoid Higher One fees that come out of their financial aid and scholarship money, about 3/4 of students I spoke with were unaware of this \$0.50 PIN fee. That is why I call it a hidden fee.

Students are being charged at ATMs separate from Higher One - as there are only 2 Higher One ATMs I know of in Eugene, and both are on campus - students are charged \$2.50 by the bank the ATM belongs to, \$2.50 by Higher One, and \$.50 for using their PIN, totaling \$5.50 each time.

Being a part of the Oregon Student Association, and being one of the many students that depend on scholarship and financial aid money, I am passionate about affordability of education. As we speak, students are using their Higher One debit cards and being charged various fees. If Higher One was based in Oregon, the profits made by Higher One would circulate within Oregon. But it is not. It is based in Connecticut. I think that is unfortunate.

When I first heard about this legislative concept, while it was still being drafted, my first reaction was, "Why does this have to go to the state level? Couldn't it be handled via campus campaigns?"

When I got out and talked to students, the issue appeared larger than I understood.

Profits made off of aid are one thing. However, the lack of a conscious decision made by students to forfeit that money is another. The fair handling of student money, considering the major lack of student money, deserves to be put under the spotlight. I will feel proud to see Oregon defend their students.

It's with great urgency I ask this committee to protect students' financial aid and pass House Bill 4102

Sara Shepherd

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