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March 11th, 2015

To: House Committee on Higher Education, Innovation, and Workforce Development
From: Juan Navarro
RE: HB 2516 - 4 Textbook Affordability

Chair Read, Vice-Chairs Gallegos and Whisnant, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Juan Navarro and I am a student at Western Oregon University and a member of the Oregon Student Association. I am here today to ask you to support 2516.

I am currently studying exercise science with a human biology minor and focus in pre-physical therapy. When I graduate I want to be a physical therapist. I spent most of my childhood in physical therapy, 17 years to be exact, because of my disability. I've recently finished my last year in rehab and want to go on to pursue a career in physical therapy because I want to be able to give back in the same way that I have been helped.

However, the cost of my education is a constant worry. I am undocumented and pay for all of my education out of pocket. The average cost for one textbook for me every term is \$225. If I were to purchase all my books for a term they would cost almost as much as if I were taking another class. This last school year the cost of textbooks has been so high that I have not been able to purchase any of my books. This has negatively impacted my school work because it is very difficult to study when I would like to. I have to contact a friend to borrow their book and I need to take nearly perfect notes to even have a chance of getting a good grade. This is really discouraging to me because it feels like I'm at such a disadvantage. Not because I don't work hard or because I'm not smart but because I can't afford textbooks.

HB2516 -4 will help students succeed in their education by providing more affordable textbooks and lessening the burden of an already expensive education. I urge you to support HB 2516 -4. Please remember my story when voting on this bill. Thank you for letting me speak with you today.

Sincerely,
Juan Navarro
Western Oregon University