

Testimony on House Bill 2729

Before the House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development

February 23, 2017

Chair Reardon, members of the committee, for the record my name is Marilyn Moody, Dean of the University Library at Portland State University. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

I am speaking in support of HB 2729 and the importance of this bill to the higher education community. This bill supports and encourages the use of OER, open educational resources, in Oregon colleges and universities. Open educational resources are made freely available for use without cost, and can be adapted, reused, revised, remixed, and redistributed to meet students' educational needs.

I'd like to particularly emphasize the importance of open textbooks and open course materials. The high cost of textbooks and course materials is a significant barrier for our students. OER help to decrease that financial barrier and ensure that students obtain the textbooks and course materials they need for their classes.

Surveys of students and the impact of high textbook costs have found comparable findings to this recent survey of students at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst:

- "59 percent said they had not purchased a textbook for a class because it was too expensive"
- "20 percent said that they had not taken a class because the textbook materials were too expensive"
- "24 percent said they took a different class because of the cost"*

At Portland State University, our reducing student costs initiative has implemented recommendations designed to decrease student costs for textbooks and course materials. One successful strategy encourages and supports the use and creation of open textbooks authored by PSU faculty. These open textbooks are made available online in Portland State University's repository, *PDXScholar***. The 10 open textbooks created and in use have already provided over \$100,000 in cost savings for Portland State students. All Portland State University open textbooks are freely available for anyone to use online or to download copies, including other Oregon colleges and universities.

Portland State is also encouraging faculty to adopt and use open textbooks created by others. This is especially useful for high-enrollment introductory courses, such as the statewide Oregon high-enrollment courses identified by HECC last year. OER for these courses are now being developed through the grant program for OER established in the 2015 legislative session by HB 2871. Once completed, these open textbooks and course materials will provide tremendous savings for students in all Oregon colleges and universities.

I urge you to help our students succeed by supporting OER in Oregon.

Thank you for your time today.

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*"Results of Open Education Initiative Survey Announced," at:

<http://www.library.umass.edu/news/scholarly-communications/oei-survey-results/>

**"Portland State University Open Access Textbooks" at: <http://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/pdxopen/>