



**THE OREGON STUDENT ASSOCIATION**

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To the Special Joint-Committee on Coronavirus Response:

The COVID-19 pandemic requires swift and proactive response from our leaders to mitigate the severe health impacts and economic impacts upon Oregon's most vulnerable populations. One of those populations is students in postsecondary education in Oregon. I write today to urge the committee to consider policies that will:

- Include protections for campus residence halls residents to have a place to stay within a statewide evictions moratorium. Students with nowhere else to go need flexibility, financial relief, payment plans, and support to reside in residence halls regardless of their ability to pay during spring term.
- A statewide moratorium on utility shut offs and late fees for the entire state.
- Students who need to renegotiate or terminate their off-campus housing contracts need protections or aid in doing so.
- We are already in a statewide crisis regarding food insecurity among college students. SNAP and TANF benefits need to be made available with greater flexibility, including waiving work requirements. Campus food pantries are critical services which need to remain open.
- We need to protect financial aid for students, and we need emergency relief grants for students who will now be facing even worse financial struggles.
- We need to protect paid administrative leave for non-remote on-campus jobs and emergency loans/cost of attendance adjustments for off-campus workers if downsized by their employers.
- We need comprehensive and proactive disability accommodations for students who are now looking at an online-only term, and students need support for accessing technology and internet.
- We need healthcare to be available for students. On campus health centers need to remain accessible, and students advised by a physician to take the test for COVID-19 should be able to do so for free.

Now, more than ever, it is time for this state to realize that the accessibility of a college education is make-or-break for the future stability of our economy and the well-being of Oregonian families.

Thanks for your service to the state and thanks for your consideration.

Best,

Andrew Rogers  
Executive Director, Oregon Student Association