

Letter of Support for HB 2213 and HB 2214

Dear Chair Doherty and “Honorable” Education Committee Members,

I strongly urge your “Yes Vote” on HB 2213 and 2213 and hope you will support moving these two bills to signature by the Governor.

These two bills will make permanent an Oregon Open Education Resource (OER) (free on-line text books) system to help control the expense of college textbooks which is a significant cost driver for students.

The 2015 and 2017 House Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee established and extended an OER program with legislation. Then the committee in the 2018 interim drafted these two bills which will establish a permanent OER programs at each community college and each public university.

I know the OER program is a high priority for the OSA representing the students and the legislation has saved students millions of dollars. Reducing the higher Education cost drivers will increase access.

Our success with the OER program system to identify textbooks is being used to help identify transferability of credits which is another cost driver for higher education.

The committee should thank the HECC team lead by Kyle Thomas for supporting our request for the funding and legislation to make the OER a permanent program to help reduce the overall cost of college textbooks.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Whisnant

Former Vice-chair of the Committee which worked the OER bills and helped draft these two bills)

February 23, 2019