

HB 2213 Testimony for Senate Committee On Education

Amy Hofer, Coordinator, Statewide Open Education Library Services,
Linn-Benton Community College, 4/24/19

Senator Wagner, members of the committee, my name is Amy Hofer, Coordinator, Statewide Open Education Library Services, Linn-Benton Community College.

I'm here to ask the committee to support this bill. Affordable course materials are essential for student success. High textbook prices are not a sustainable revenue source for our colleges and universities. And commercial publishers have demonstrated over many years that their interest is profit, not student success.

HB 2213 builds on Oregon's existing efforts to lower textbook costs and adopt open educational resources. It requires each public college and university to create textbook affordability plans. Plans should have measurable goals, account for decreased bookstore revenue, market the no-cost/low-cost schedule designation, and make a strong statement of support for academic freedom.

I also hope that you'll advocate with your colleagues on the Joint Ways & Means Committee when it comes time to allocate funds for affordable textbooks and open education. We need legislative funding to support the work of HB 2213 and to prevent textbook costs from becoming the kind of financial emergencies that impact student outcomes and completion. Supporting faculty in making more affordable textbook choices creates a multiplier effect in student savings that makes this spending effective and high-impact.

In my written testimony I've submitted a link with three different budget models for ongoing work in previous textbook affordability bills that is not built into the continuing service budget, as well as new work in this area (<https://tinyurl.com/hb2214>). If we keep legislative funding at about the current level of \$640,000, we continue to fund the existing program in all 24 public higher ed institutions. If we double legislative funding to \$1.2M, we can expand the program by hiring an Open Education Publishing Librarian who would manage the resources created by Oregon faculty grantees in order to make the collection more discoverable, accessible, and reusable. If we choose to ramp up, \$2.8M in funding would offer grants to each institution to support implementation of HB 2213, startup funds for creating an open source homework platform, and greatly increased funding for professional development and grants to faculty.

Thank you for your time today.

HB 2214 Budget Scenarios

Statewide funding for textbook affordability and open education

Budget Item Description	Flat (ish) Funding*	Growth Funding	Wish List Funding
Coordinator Salary and Benefits	\$116,364	\$116,364	\$116,364
Administrative Assistant Salary and Benefits	\$132,000	\$132,000	\$132,000
Grant-based OER Projects and related costs (e.g. OPE)	\$150,000	\$250,000	\$500,000
Faculty development	\$200,000	\$250,000	\$300,000
Open Education Publishing Librarian Salary and Benefits	\$0	\$173,000	\$173,000
Open Education Publishing Librarian Projects	\$0	\$200,000	\$200,000
Grants to support each institution implementing textbook affordability plan	\$0	\$0	\$240,000
Open source homework platform startup fund	\$0	\$0	\$500,000
Statewide low-cost print cooperative startup fund	\$0	\$0	\$250,000
Contract researcher for statewide faculty awareness survey	\$0	\$0	\$100,000
Supplies	\$10,000	\$22,500	\$25,000
Indirect Costs - LBCC (10%)	\$60,836	\$114,386	\$253,636
Total	\$669,200	\$1,258,250	\$2,790,000

*2017-19 funding is not in CSL