

Oregon Student Association



April 21, 2019
To: House Committee on Education
From: Abby Hardin
RE: HB 2213, Textbook Affordability Plan

Dear members of the committee:

Hello, my name is Abby Hardin. I am a 2nd year student at Linn-Benton Community College studying pre-nursing, and I am a part of the student government (SLC) on campus as the Legislative Affairs Director, which means I also sit on the Board of Directors of the Oregon Student Association. I first want to thank the committee for the time you all commit to students and higher education, and taking the time to read my testimony today.

I am writing because I want to make it known to the committee that Oregon students need HB 2213 to be passed. During my first year of school, I was shocked when I learned I would have to pay over \$200 for a textbook for a class I had already registered for. I was notified that I would need this book to complete the course after the course had already begun, so it was too late to switch to another course with a more affordable textbook. Though this number might not seem too drastic, this could mean the difference between being able to buy groceries or not. Should our students have to choose between pursuing their education and feeding their families? I surely don't think so.

When I was a high school senior in 2017, my biggest source of anxiety was wondering how I was ever going to get through college without mounds of debt following me for the rest of my life due to the high costs of textbooks and tuition. I watched my parents argue and stress about where they could cut their budget and pinch their pennies to try and offer me a college experience that wouldn't require two jobs on top of full time study just to afford to live. I took out my first loan at age 18 because we felt like there was simply no other option. HB 2213 passing would relieve lots of this stress because it would allow Oregon students to know what they are getting into financially prior to registering for a course. The state must do better when supporting students with the rising cost of textbooks, and it now you all have the opportunity to do so. Please support Oregon students by passing HB 2213. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Abby Hardin

OREGON STUDENT ASSOCIATION

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