

Oregon Student Association



April 21, 2019

To: House Committee on Education

From: Odalis Aguilar Aguilar

RE: HB 2213, Textbook Affordability Plan

Good afternoon members of the committee,

My name is Odalis Aguilar Aguilar and I am an undergraduate student at the University of Oregon studying Ethnic Studies and Spanish. I am also a part time policy associate for the Oregon Student Association and the State Affairs commissioner for the student government at the University of Oregon. The Oregon Student Association supports HB 2213 and it is one of our top priorities as the organization.

It is crucial for institutions to make an affordability plans that meets students needs for textbook affordability. My first term of college I spent over \$200 on textbooks for my classes. As a first year student, I was naive to the resources that were offered at my University and I spent money I could have saved for other things. I remember going to the Duck store a few days before class began to buy the books Amazon did not have stock. As a first generation student I found myself roaming through the aisles while other students had their families with them picking out books and other supplies. There were a multitude of parents who had lists with them and were buying the books for their children. You have no idea how much I longed for at least one close family member of mine to have been there with me to witness the purchase of my first college textbook.

I realized that spending \$600+ on textbooks a year was not something I could afford. Thankfully, at the University of Oregon, the Center for Multicultural Academic Excellence is able to provide a book loan service for students who are from marginalized communities like myself. The following term, I went to their office to check out books and saw the many students who looked like me were also there. Being able to borrow books is a huge advantage that not many institutions have the luxury of providing. Having a loan program where students can borrow textbooks for a term is one example of the things colleges can recommend in their plans. This is why I strongly urge this committee to vote yes on HB 2213 in order to help save Oregonian students money.

Respectfully,
Odalis Aguilar Aguilar
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