



February 4th, 2020

House Committee on Education
900 Court St. NE,
Salem, OR 97301

Representative Doherty and members of the committee,

We, the Student Body Presidents of the public universities in Oregon, urge you to support House Bill 4055 regarding food and housing insecurity for students pursuing public higher education. We represent tens of thousands of students from every county in the state, and we recognize and are concerned by the astoundingly high levels of food and housing insecurity that our students face. Our constituents are your constituents, and our students are in need.

The cost of higher education is overwhelming, and food and housing costs greatly contribute the financial instability that students face and may carry with them for decades after graduation. We need reliable and substantive data to build a statewide plan to tackle this problem, and we cannot do it without House Bill 4055. The food pantries at our schools, if we even have them, are heavily used and are not sufficient to eliminating the issue at the source, even though they are helpful. Rent prices skyrocket as landlords take advantage of college students, leaving students to live in their cars or on the streets while they study, work, and make progress towards their degree. Students should not have to worry about whether or not they will have a place to sleep, or food to eat.

Our job as Student Body Presidents is to advocate for students in need. Each of us has worked towards lessening food insecurity and/or housing insecurity at our respective campuses this year. We are reaching, if we haven't already passed into, a crisis and we need your support.

Respectfully,

Rachel Josephson, ASOSU President 2019-2020
Erik Morgan Jr., ASWOU President 2019-2020
Stefan Valenzuela, ASOIT President 2019-2020
Brian Chavez, ASSC President 2019-2020
Britney Sharp, ASSOU President 2019-2020
Samantha Wegerman, ASEOU President 2019-2020
Violet Gibson, ASPSU President 2019-2020
Sabinna E. Pierra, ASUO President 2019-2020