

Hello Members of the committee,

My name is Mauri Law, and I am a freshman in my second term at Lane Community College. I have a history with food and housing insecurity, and now it is a constant anxiety of mine. Whenever you're worried about basic needs and grades, it becomes hard to function. Currently, I am living with my significant other, and don't have to worry about immediate rent and food costs. However, it is still an active concern that once I move, I will not have this.

This isn't an uncommon issue as many of my peers face this too. When basic needs aren't fulfilled, they become a boundary preventing you from giving school your all. Before high school, my family had a lot of housing and food insecurity. My mom moved us around quite a bit to find more affordable living. One of the first moves I remember us making was from Louisiana to Texas when I was 10 where we moved in with a family friend. However, after a disagreement between them, it became unsafe so we moved again. Next thing I knew we were living in a shelter. I was a child, entering fifth grade and this impacted my education. I was starting a new school, and when people would ask me what my address was I was ashamed. I didn't have a place to call home until Section 8 housing was finally granted to us. My mom is a single disabled parent, and so she had a lot of issues supporting us financially. We depended on a lot of food banks, government resources, and more even after we left the shelter. It was my life trend until I could be financially independent.

This is my moral compass. We should make sure that everyone is well fed and that their basic needs are taken care of. Even in our hard situation, I was taught to share and provide for other people with the little I had. During my college applications, my mom was very depressed and wasn't able to support me, so I put off school to work full-time. I felt great, until I realized that minimum wage and this hard work was not a sustainable cycle. This is how I got to Eugene. I came here so I could slow down, and attempt to provide for myself food-wise and house-wise, allowing me to pursue my education at Lane.

I deserve to go to sleep knowing that I don't have to stress about eating or moving all the time. This is the same thing I want for my peers, many of whom are going through what I went through when I was younger. Even though I currently have stability, this trauma has left constant stress for me. I have lots of people around me at school who do have to worry about this now, and no one deserves that. That is why you should support House Bill 4055.