

31<sup>st</sup> January 2021

Dear Respective Legislative Members,

I am writing as a University of Oregon student to urge you to support **HB 3012**, Improve Student Inclusion in On Campus Decision Making.

I believe it is critical to ensure that students maintain autonomy from their administrations in order for universities to best support their students, and one of the keyways in which this balance is kept is through student government autonomy over the use of incidental fees. Student fee autonomy for student governments is the most robust and oldest institutionalized way for students to have input in their campus experience. The student fee is used by student government for crucial programs such as Food pantries, identity-based student groups and programming, and activity-based clubs. As a student myself who has relied heavily on the student pantry and the Women's Center for stability and basic human goods, a loss caused by administrative misdirection would be devastating to me and my quality of life.

Recent events surrounding this statute have highlighted that a clear line has not been drawn between administration and students in regard to the use of this fee, and this has caused tension and worry for all parties involved. Having a bill like this would create a clear path to following both their legal and procedural responsibilities in the student fee process.

Student fee autonomy is not a new or revolutionary idea. Student Fee Autonomy has benefitted students in Oregon since the 1970s. The programs provided by these are culturally enriching, educational, democratic, transparent and fiscally responsible. Not to mention for me, necessary to make sure I have food on my plate with the food pantry and a safe place to go and a community I can speak to with the Women's Center. To preserve and uphold these values, we need to make some clarifications within existing statute.

This issue runs too closely to my own life, and many students' lives, to not be taken seriously. So, I ask, do Oregon students have your support for **HB 3012**?

Thank you for your time and consideration,

-Maya Ward