

Dear Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Thomsen and members of the committee,
My name is Jessica Tuson and I am a student at Oregon State University.

I am asking you to vote yes on SB849 to help students across the state have the resources they need to navigate food and housing insecurity. One important thing this bill would help do is connect students with SNAP benefits.

I myself am a SNAP recipient. With SNAP it's easier but before I had it, access to food was super stressful which in turn made school super stressful and not the top priority. even with the max amount of federal student loans, Pell, and Financial Aid my tuition isn't even fully covered, so all books and supplies for school come out of my own pocket.

I have 2 jobs and work 20 hours a week, so I still have enough time for school and if I didn't have student loans, pell, and financial aid for school and SNAP to help with groceries I would not be able to attend this school, which to me means without financial aid and SNAP I don't think that I am making a living wage. The time procuring all these resources take up time and energy that could be spent on classes, and make classes feel less important. Housing security is also very important for my success as a student. I am a renter, and having a place to live and study especially since everything remote takes priority over school therefor making school an added stress.

Please remember my story when voting on this bill, and please support SB849.

Thank you,

Jessica Tuson