



Emily Wanous

OSA Legislative Director

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Dear Chair Dembrow, Vice Chair Thomsen and members of the Senate Education committee,

For the record, my name is Emily Wanous and I am the Legislative Director for the Oregon Student Association.

Textbook affordability has been of great concern to students as the cost of attending a higher education institution continues to skyrocket. HB2919 would help ameliorate some of the unexpected costs of attendance by having the textbook and its accompanied price clearly outlined at the time of course registration. The -2 amendment requires a 75% of the total number of for-credit courses offered by the institution to reach compliance on this bill. In addition, the amendment allows for faculty to list a link to where the book is sold to make sure real time price changes are updated for students. These have been worked through with the institutions to ensure they are successful in their compliance.

HB2919 would help students better prepare for their upcoming term, as well as give further autonomy to them as they choose which courses fit into their price range and which ones go beyond. While the cost of textbooks are of smaller impact on a student's budget than housing or tuition, the emergency-like nature of students finding out their textbook costs right before the start of term can have an impact on retention.

Students, along with other higher education advocates, have been working on textbooks affordability measures since 2015, when HB2871 was passed which requires each of Oregon's public colleges and universities to designate courses with no-cost or low-cost course materials in the schedule. This was an important step in our work and HB2919 would build on that by ensuring course material reporting to happen sooner to assist students in their academic and financial planning. HB2919 could incentivize faculty to adopt more no-cost or low-cost textbooks assuming that students, when presented with the cost ahead of time, have the potential of choosing more affordable courses than not.

This form of on time reporting is a common practice in neighboring states, such as Washington. In my written testimony, I have provided a screenshot of how this concept would look in practice. Some of Oregon's institutions are already implementing on-time adoption reporting; with Chemeketa, Umpqua, and Linn-Benton Community College at 90% of their courses having such information provided. This form of reporting is possible, it works, and most importantly it helps our students.

Thank you for your time and I urge your "yes" vote on this important legislation.

Example of on time reporting in Washington State:

Class Availability

Class Capacity	35	Maximum Reserved Seats	0	Wait List Capacity	99
Enrollment Total	33	Reserved Seats Enrolled	0	Wait List Total	0
Non-Reserved Seats Available	2	Reserved Seats Available	0	Wait List Available	99

Notes

Class Notes Hybrid class. Additional 2 hours of coursework per week will be required via Canvas and/or Web.

Description

The basic ideas around which political debate revolves and from which political institutions evolve.

Textbook/Other Materials

Textbooks

Status	Required	POWER & CHOICE: AN INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIEN, Author: SHIVELY, Publisher: RLPG, Price: 74.35 USD, Notes: Available used for \$55.75. Please note that information is subject to change at any time.
ISBN	9781538114124	