

Hello to the House Education Committee,

My name is Riley Andersen and I attend Oregon State University in Corvallis.

I am asking you to support HB 2835 to help students navigate food and housing insecurity. 41% of students in Oregon struggle with food insecurity.

I don't receive support with food assistance, but when in-person classes begin again and I move back to Corvallis, I will need to apply for food assistance or food stamps. I almost had to leave OSU during the 2019-2020 school year as I couldn't afford it-- due to a familial donation and as many federal student loans that I could take out, I was able to continue. Due to Oregon State's freshman live-on policy and their food plan scam, I was forced to stay in a tiny room with two other people, for extremely high costs, and no funds to support it. I was working for UHDS, and with my paycheck, all of my loans, scholarships and money saved up, I still had a lack of just under \$2000 fall term. Spring term, when COVID hit and I no longer needed to stay in my dorm contract, I didn't, and I got a substantial REFUND, solely because I didn't need to pay dorm fees anymore.

Because of this lack of money for funding, I needed to devote hours to working that could've been used for studying, and the stress made my school performance worse. This is reflected in the difference between my GPAs from Fall 2019 and winter 2020, and spring 2020.

I worked before the pandemic. I worked 15 hours a week (I would've worked more, but the shifts at my work didn't line up with my studies schedule). I did not receive a living wage. It was a drop in the bucket compared to how much I had to pay out-of-pocket the terms I was at OSU in person.

Helping students meet their Basic Needs is crucial to our success, and HB 2835 will be huge progress in helping us.

Please vote yes on HB 2835.

Thank you,

Riley Andersen