

Dear House Education Committees,

My name is Elisa Salgado, and I am a senior at the University of Oregon.

I am a college student residing in Oregon and I support the Oregon Student Association's Basic Needs Navigators Bill because students of color and low-income students are disproportionately impacted by basic needs insecurities. I, like many others I know such as my friends, classmates, and coworkers alike-- have all experienced a lack of food and housing insecurity throughout my time as an undergraduate student. The passing of this bill would have made my college experience easier by allowing me to focus on my academic performance and professional development, rather than working multiple jobs at once to ensure my bills would be paid on time. With the support of a Basic Needs Navigator on campus, I believe that I would not have had to sacrifice social gatherings, study time, and sleep over work.

However, despite the financial obstacles and barriers I have had to face during my undergrad, it is without a doubt that other students have had to endure more than what I did to have their basic needs met. Connecting college students to basic needs navigators that can assist them in finding vital federal and state resources is critical for students that are facing food and housing insecurity in college. This bill would allow other students to plan for their financial well being, lower basic needs insecurity experiences, and allow them to focus on their academic performance for graduation.

Therefore, I urge the committees to support HB 2542.

Thank you for your time,
Elisa Salgado