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### HB 2542 Testimony

As a college student, I have an abundance of expenses: tuition, rent, food, transportation, textbooks, and course materials. I also pay mandatory fees, but unlike these other expenses, I don't know where my money is going. My student fees at the University of Oregon fund a rec center, the student union, and other campus services that I am aware of and happy to support. However, they also include fees traditionally covered by tuition, like a technology fee that charges me and other students for access to campus internet. Currently, information on mandatory fee spending is largely inaccessible to University of Oregon students. This hampers student input and gives the administration wide discretion on how to spend mandatory fees.

By requiring colleges and universities to report their mandatory fee spending breakdowns to the HECC, HB 2542 would hold institutions accountable. Students have the right to know how their schools are spending their money. Publishing mandatory fee allocations empowers students and student leaders to influence spending decisions. As these fees and tuition continue to rise astronomically, student voices play a crucial role in preserving affordable education. Mandatory fee reporting is common sense. HB 2542 standardizes transparency when it comes to mandatory fees. Mandatory fee reporting is already common practice in neighboring states like Washington. Oregon must not hesitate to hold its colleges and universities accountable for their spending decisions. I ask the committees to support HB 2542 and demonstrate their commitment to Oregon's postsecondary students.