



Dear members of the House Committee on Education,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2919 on Course Cost Transparency and Timeliness.

The Oregon Association of College and Research Libraries represents librarians in public universities, community colleges, and private colleges and universities across the state. Our members support this common-sense policy to improve Oregon's course material reporting because it will provide tremendous benefit to our students while ensuring academic freedom for faculty.

Timely reporting of course materials benefits students by giving them the information they need to plan financially for the true costs of their courses at the time of registration. According to the [HECC Snapshot](#), 44% of students are unable to meet their expenses with the resources they have available. Having clear and accurate information about the costs of materials will empower students to better budget their educational expenses and identify the most appropriate options for accessing course materials. In addition, HB2919 incentivizes the use of Oregon Open Educational Resources and low cost materials by faculty by giving students the information they need to select courses with lower costs. Increased use of these materials improves the return on the investment the state has made in its Open Educational Resources Program. Simultaneously, HB2919 can result in lower course material costs for traditional textbooks by allowing campus bookstores more time to negotiate better prices for materials.

The goals of this practical policy are very attainable. Chemeketa Community College, Umpqua Community College, and Linn-Benton Community College are all statewide leaders in on-time course material reporting with over 90% reporting, much more than the 75% mandated by the HB2919. In addition, faculty remain free to adopt any material of their choosing and this information will be available to students in time for them to plan ahead.

We urge you to support this no-nonsense legislation.

Sincerely,

The Association of College and Research Libraries, Oregon Board

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