

Submitter: DeeAnte Carter  
On Behalf Of: Rainy Day Food Pantry  
Committee: House Committee On Higher Education  
Measure: HB3089

I stand in support of House Bill 3089. I am the lead coordinator for a partner agency of Food For Lane County (FFLC) and steward of Lane Community College. In my three years of being in this position, watching the turmoil of Covid and its residual effects. In our present-day crisis of food insecurities, inflation, and societal chaos. I have watched students become keener and keener to utilizing more public resources than ever before.

I have been a public service agent for eight years and in the last three, I have watched the public struggle more than ever before. The bright side of this is that students, low-income families, and everyday people are starting to find other ways to supplement their needs. The once path less traveled, now has traffic, in abundance. More people are finding resources throughout their community to help them get through this rough patch that we all as a nation are going through. People are starting to acknowledge what food insecurity is and find a remedy or way to counter this mental state. I am proud to help those who fight to better themselves and their situation and insecurities. I have watched students become more self-sustainable from utilizing our resources. Do more meal prepping, cooking their own food, becoming more food conscious and healthy, budgeting, and volunteering to help the very organizations that support them.

The problem is, many of these public entities, organizations, partner agencies, and nonprofits are starting to close or shut down more frequently. Coincidentally around the same time our nation is going through an economical crisis. Understaffing has been a constant in the public service world for decades and has its highs and lows. Funding has too also been an ongoing issue. Let us not forget nor leave out support. At my institution, those topics have been a revolving issue that could frustrate any employee. Our institution is in support of keeping and providing a pantry to our students to help students be successful academically and physically. I truly believe that. What I do not believe is some staff or folks of the administration who disagree with that. They believe if we give students free food that we are not doing them a service but a disservice. We are giving fish away versus teaching students how to fish. From my experience in the field, from an institutional standpoint, and from an individual who utilizes the resource. Just like so many before me, I beg to differ. I have watched our resource change students' lives and it has definitely changed mine, in addition to me as an employee leading it. Knowing students are secure on a basic need level makes me feel pure joy because I know they can focus on more important things in their lives and their actions demonstrate that.

I am in support of HB 3089, so that we can eliminate the excuses of support, staffing, and funding. That way public agencies and partner agencies can really address and make an impactful difference in our communities. Instead of having to deal with the counterproductive activities they commonly have to face. They can help the community members be more successful in their endeavors and aspirations. We are all in this together, and it takes a village, this will not happen overnight. People have to understand that if my neighbor hurts so do I. I believe this bill will help folks start to understand and realize that.

"Hita La Mon"

It is up to "US"