

Submitter: Sarah Meyer  
On Behalf Of: Oregon Student Association  
Committee: House Committee On Higher Education  
Measure: HB3121

My name is Sarah Meyer, I am a first year student here at the University of Oregon. I am here today to write a written testimony in support of HB 3121 with the -1 Amendment that will help make critical investments in Open Oregon Educational Resources, regarding the state of Oregon's statewide textbook affordability program.

I care deeply about Open Education because I have been affected first hand from the high expenses of textbooks in schooling. I am very blessed to even attend college, but I am also the youngest of eight kids and with my parents being divorced there is a hard time communicating who pays for what expenses, even when it comes down to something as simple as textbooks for a term. Having that many siblings ahead of me, it's hard to have a good balance for all of our schooling. Personally, I know that both my parents left college with an insane amount of debt that they still pay to this day, and I am scared to know that's going to be me as well. Through paying for my own college, it's a stressful time balancing future jobs I will have to get, (because without them I simply won't be able to afford it all) and being a full time student. If a program like the Open Oregon Educational program was in place and well when my parents were in school, I truly believe that their situation would be completely different, also affecting mine and my siblings' school expenses as well. Although I am blessed in comparison to other college students, I also am still greatly impacted by the education expenses, especially with them going up more and more every year. Every year, many students are forced to drop out because of the expenses being too high. Many students also have a hard time focusing on their education due to working multiple jobs to be able to even attend their school. With higher funding, students would be able to focus on their future and why they are in school in the first place. There would be a higher graduation rate with not only the University of Oregon, but also universities around the country.

Thank you so much for your time, and I hope that this added your support of HB 3121 with the -1 Amendment.