

Submitter: Chloe Fiveash
On Behalf Of:
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Chair Lively, Vice Chair Ruiz, Vice Chair McIntire, and members of the House Higher Education Committee,

My name is Chloe Fiveash, and I am third year Chemistry major at Southern Oregon University. I am submitting a written testimony in support of measure HB3121 with the 1-Admendment to advocate for the investment in the Open Oregon Educational Resources, Oregon's statewide textbook affordability program.

Textbooks are critical to student learning, and they are the first expense that is sacrificed for students. I am fortunate enough to be able to rise above my circumstances, but I still often wonder if a \$320 textbooks is worth a half a month's groceries and that is just one textbook. I typically take between 12-15 credits a term. That is roughly 5-7 classes a term. Each corresponding class has its own text book, and a sometimes a student learning guide that can provide the homework. If the class does not require a textbook, such as a lab, it requires a specific lab notebook. If I took the cheapest option of renting a textbook, on average I would pay \$700 per term for four textbooks with each individual textbook being 150 dollars. This does not include the student learning guides, specific lab notebooks, or the multiple computer programs that often are required to purchase for the class as well.

Investing into OER can open doors for students where they do not have to choose between efficient learning, and other expenses. To most college students' textbooks are seen as a luxury, and many have found ways to avoid buying them all together. I am a mentor in Strong Start Program at Southern Oregon University for underrepresented students in their first year at college. I can confidently say my mentees are scrambling for funds to buy shoes and winter clothes. The last thing on their mind is buying a textbook. Supporting this bill means supporting students who overcome extreme circumstances every day just to attend college. Every student deserves the opportunity to enrich their learning experiences with the proper resources.

For these reasons, and many more, I believe struggling students deserve to be supported through educational programs in their college experience. OER can become one of the many programs that change students lives.

Thank you for your time, and I hope you too can support HB 3121 with the -1 Amendment.