

My name is Maya Light. I am a student at the University Of Oregon, and I am here today to submit my written testimony in support of HB 3121 with the -1 Amendment that will help make critical investments in Open Oregon Educational Resources, Oregon's statewide textbook affordability program.

Growing up I never thought higher education was an opportunity for me, as I am from a low-income one-parent household. My mother immigrated to the U.S. when she was 19, and always preached to me how education is the most important thing in the world, but that I most likely would not be able to attend college. Nowadays, I do attend college here in Eugene, and my mom works four different jobs to support my tuition costs. The cost of tuition is already a huge challenge to pay, but costs like textbooks have affected my experience dramatically. There have been many classes I have been interested in taking or need to take to satisfy credits for my major, but have been unable to because of the cost of extra supplies required, like textbooks. I care about open education because I believe everyone has the right to higher education, and it should not be a privilege.

Thank you for your time, and I hope that I can count on your support of HB 3121 with the -1 Amendment.