

Chair Lively, Vice Chair Ruiz, Vice Chair McIntire, and members of the House Higher Education Committee,

My name is Dylan DeLoe, I am a student of Public Policy seeking a bachelor's degree at Oregon State University. I was one of the student members on the Joint Task Force on Student Success for Underrepresented Students in Higher Education. Before Oregon State, I studied agriculture production at Blue Mountain Community College from 2019-2022. In the library, I worked as a student assistant.

Whenever a new term starts, many students head straight to the bookstore to find their books. Most of them don't know the cost, so when they were shown the price tag, they came running to me in the library. Some came to me in tears, "Do you have my book?" Some even tried to bargain with me, or do the math in their head, "Even if it's an old edition, I can make it work, just please tell me you have it." "Rent's due, and I'm already short." "Umm, well maybe if I just skip breakfast for a few weeks, I can still feed my kids" I'd try to get them connected to an emergency scholarship, usually they just went without the books.

That scales by the way; in a recently published survey conducted at OSU, 61% of the respondents didn't purchase a textbook because of costs. This can impact grades, and overall retention and success in profound ways. They also found that, 38% don't register for a course, 44.5% take fewer classes overall, and 18% drop the course. (Buck, 2022) [Collecting Local Data to Advocate for Oregon State Students](#)

I introduced this policy to the task force because students shouldn't have to do that. I introduced this policy because Amy and Open Oregon have proven they have what it takes to deliver for students. I introduced this policy because I was tired of telling people that there was nothing I could do. I introduced this policy because I don't want myself or any other student feeling gouged, or being run ragged working all the hours they possibly can to pay for textbooks.

When I introduced this expanded funding recommendation to the Joint Task Force, it came with two other asks that have already been stripped away through this process. First, that the expanded funding continue indefinitely, not just for this biennium, until another bill is brought to the legislature to change current service level funding in the future. Second, that the HECC itself, or a university program the HECC contracts to, create a standardized software application or widget for all Oregon colleges and universities that automates course marking. That means that at the point of registering for classes, on the registration page itself, students will be able to see exactly what they can expect to pay for required course materials. I included these recommendations because Open Oregon ought to use their time increasing academic freedom for Oregon instructors and saving students money, not fighting for the program's survival every other year. And secondly, that course marking as currently left to the institutions to implement, is inconsistent or absent, uses arbitrary or vague designations, and increases the workload of administrators and registrars. While this biennium increase is a step in the right direction, we could do a lot better.

Thank you for your time. Please consider supporting additional amendments like I've described, and I hope that I can count on your support of HB 3121 with the -1 amendment as well.

Sincerely,

Dylan DeLoe, student of Public Policy at Oregon State University