

Submitter: Jennifer Lantrip
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

Co-Chair Steiner, Co-Chair Sanchez, and members of the Joint Committee On Ways and Means:

My name is Jennifer Lantrip, and I am a Health Sciences Student Success Librarian at Pacific University. I am providing testimony in support of HB 3121 to increase funding for Open Oregon Educational Resources.

I worked closely with Open Oregon as a librarian at Umpqua Community College from 2014-21. Open Oregon was essential in the creation and support of UCC's textbook affordability program, saving students \$315,000 during 2019-21 -- a one hundred percent increase from the previous biennium.

As an OER Research Fellow for the Open Ed Group, I studied Oregon community college faculty's OER adoption practices. We found that sustained support structures for faculty were needed for OER adoption, including training and instructional design support. We also found that release time or funding was essential, especially for adjunct faculty.

As state funding for education has decreased, institutions have fewer resources and stability to provide these supports. Investment in Open Oregon is an efficient and effective way to increase textbook affordability and save students \$3-\$30, year after year, per program dollar spent.

This really matters to our students. Students often have to purchase textbooks out of pocket at the beginning of the term because financial aid is often not enough to cover these costs. Two thirds of community college students are food insecure, half are housing insecure, and 13-14% are homeless.

I have worked with many students experiencing these things – who live in their cars or between friends and family members' couches, who do not have family as a financial support cushion when small emergencies arise and, in fact, whose families and parents often rely on them for financial support during emergencies.

When students drop-out because they can't recover from small financial emergencies, they are left with student debt and no degree enabling them to pay it back, making their situation worse. And we know that this happens and that textbook costs negatively affect our students: A recent survey of OSU students found that 61% of students did not purchase their textbooks because of high costs, 44.5% took fewer

classes, 18% have dropped courses, and 14% withdrew from a course. Historically underserved BIPOC students reported a greater negative impact of high textbook costs.

Open Oregon has an excellent track record of bringing results. Each program dollar spent is multiplied many times in savings for students and compounds year after year. This investment will make a huge difference to Oregon's students and Oregon's future.

Thank you for your time. I hope I can count on your support of HB 3121 and textbook affordability.