

My name is Meredith Schreiber. I am the Director of Auxiliary Services at Chemeketa Community College, and I am submitting written testimony regarding textbook affordability in reference to HB 3121 with the 1 Amendment that will help make investments in Open Oregon Educational Resources.

In my 10 plus years at Chemeketa I have focused my job on textbook affordability. We have successfully reduced the cost of course materials **by over 50% since 2013**. The majority of the success has come from negotiating with commercial publishers, finding innovative ways to deliver course materials, and working in collaboration with faculty so they can focus on the efficacy of learning materials and the bookstore can focus on low cost options. OER plays an important role, but there are other options that will save students a significant amount of money that do not require such a large investment of funds from the state's funding.

Over my years at Chemeketa I have attended several hearings on textbook affordability, as well as served on a working committee addressing textbook affordability. The most common theme is students want to know the cost of materials before they register, and of course a preference for the lowest cost possible. We have delivered this at Chemeketa.

At Chemeketa we have a system in place that allows our students to view the cost of course materials at the time of registration, and we note all low cost/no cost materials in our digital course catalog. Though these efforts are required by legislation, state and federal, not all colleges are able to accomplish these goals, it's a hard task to do. And we know it is important to our students.

We were the first college in Oregon to offer day one digital access of course materials for our students. We charge on their student accounts, they access the materials on day one in their Learning Management System, students have the choice to opt-out, and this effort immediately reduces costs and stress, while delivering edited and curated materials for our students. Our Anatomy and Physiology course went from a \$450 course material for 3 terms to \$179, for the exact same materials.

By 2024 we want to go one step further and develop a flat rate charge per course to ensure students have the cost of all textbooks at the time of enrollment. We believe this program will also reduce stress at the start of term when students scour the internet trying to find the lowest price materials, or are waiting for their financial aid, or worse having to decide to go without the materials.

The program we are developing allows for all students to start on the first day of class with all of their course materials. This is an equitable solution to support student success. And no matter the student's chosen academic path, the cost of course materials are the same for all students.

OER's are a part of the solution, but there is a cost. There is a tremendous amount of time and money needed to make the OER presentable and accessible to students. One example is that every time faculty want to take a sabbatical to work on an OER, or need release time for a

grant, someone else has to be paid to teach their classes. Open Oregon has done amazing work, and the cost of textbooks have come down. [Course Material Spending Drops](#)

My intent of this testimony is to bring awareness of solutions that currently exist that can achieve many of these goals without additional funding.