



To: House Committee on Higher Education
From: Prissila Moreno, UO '26
Re: Support for HB 3121
Date: March 15th, 2023

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

My name is Prissila, I am a first year student at the University of Oregon. I study political science and legal studies. I am a member of OSPIRG Students at the University of Oregon. OSPIRG Students is a student-led and funded organization giving students the resources and opportunity to share their voice on issues they care about. Currently, we are running our textbook affordability campaign because textbooks are too expensive and we need to focus on making higher education more accessible. I am submitting 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.

I grew up in a low income area and a lot of people I grew up with weren't able to go to college because of tuition costs. I am fortunate enough to have my tuition paid for, but the extra burden of textbooks was an unforeseen massive cost in allowing me to obtain an education. As a first generation student I had no idea what the cost of college looked like, and neither did my parents. Then when I got to campus first term these costs all came flying at me. I had to pay for the textbooks for my classes if I wanted to be on equal footing for my degree. For my political science major, international relations is a mandatory class. In that class, there is a mandatory \$250 textbook. I needed to purchase the textbook to excel in that class, but the \$250 didn't even account for purchasing the book long term, it just allowed me to rent the e-book for 180 days. That unforeseen cost that I experienced deprives so many people of pursuing higher education and to be involved in organizations that would fulfill them outside of classes.

Affordable textbooks and expansion of college accessibility is important to young people in Oregon. I hope that the Oregon legislature passes HB 3121 with the -1 Amendment to take meaningful steps to mitigate the textbook affordability crisis across the state.

Thank you for your time.

Prissila Moreno
Member
OSPIRG Students
Prissila@uoregon.edu