



To: House Committee on Higher Education

From: Addie Cooper, UO '25

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 Addie Cooper, I am a second year student at the University of Oregon. I study education and I am a statewide board member with OSPIRG Students at the University of Oregon. OSPIRG Students is a student-run, student-funded organization across the state that tackles prominent environmental and social issues in Oregon. Currently, we are running our textbook affordability campaign because textbooks are way too expensive. As an education major, education accessibility is super important to me and I see it getting hindered by students having to choose between school and basic needs. 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.

As an aspiring educator I see the importance of affordable textbooks because I don't ever want to see any of my students or their families going through the struggles I see my peers going through. This has become a stance I have become increasingly exposed to as I have joined the executive board for Aspiring Educators at the University of Oregon. I spent \$200 on textbooks this term for just two classes. Every year, students at the University of Oregon have to pay for textbooks for three terms instead of two. The textbook affordability crisis impacts students every single day. No student should have to sacrifice their basic needs to pay for textbooks.

Textbook affordability and expansion of open educational resources on campus is incredibly important to students in Oregon. We 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.

Addie Cooper
Statewide Board Member
OSPIRG Students
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