

Support for HB 4162

Testimony for the House Interim Committee On Higher Education

February 8, 2024

Chair Lively, Vice Chairs Ruiz and McIntire, and members of the Committee, for the record, my name is Amy Hofer, Statewide Open Education Program Director with Open Oregon Educational Resources.

Open Oregon Educational Resources is our statewide textbook affordability program. We promote textbook affordability for community college and university students and facilitate widespread adoption of open, low-cost, high-quality materials.

Since Oregon started investing in textbook affordability in 2015, we have seen measurable success. However, there is still much more that we want to do. The state investment in our program has been flat since 2019. With \$1M in one-time funding in Year 2 of the current biennium, we can:

- Expand our grant program at ~\$12 in student savings per \$1 spent. We will put out a call for grant proposals and fund new projects to adopt, adapt, and create open educational resources.
- Expand professional development for faculty at up to ~\$50 in student savings per \$1 spent. We will offer additional opportunities to write peer reviews of open educational resources, attend our equity and open education faculty cohort, and participate in a one-week course redesign sprint.
- Leverage the momentum of our existing community of practice to provide more on-ramps for new participants. We will hold our first in-person Statewide OER Symposium since 2019 when we moved online during the pandemic.

One-time funds will help us right now, and I'll be back in 2025 advocating for an ongoing program funding increase as recommended by the Joint Task Force on Student Success for Underrepresented Students in Higher Education. I hope that you will support Oregon's students by voting yes on this student needs package, including the \$1M for textbook affordability as a line item appropriation during the Ways & Means budget process.

Thank you for your time!