

HB 4162

THURSDAY, FEB. 8TH - 3 PM

HOUSE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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

My name is Rook Smith and I am a student at Southern Oregon University. I am here today in support of House Bill 4162: the Student Emergency Needs Package, which directs funds to our Higher Ed. Public Institutions to provide basic needs resources to our students.

Students across Oregon are stuck in a tricky balancing act; which do we prioritize, rent, tuition payments, textbooks, or groceries? There is no reality in which this should be a question that crosses through my mind or the minds of my fellow students. I am grateful to have a campus with an accessible food pantry and it's clear that students need that resource. When the food pantry gets stocked, within the day, a majority of the product gets taken by our students. I would love to see a further investment in programs like these and other basic needs resources on our college campuses.

I am grateful for your compassion and listening to these personal stories about the needs of Oregon students. I hope that I can count on your support of the Student Emergency Needs Package (HB 4162). Students should not have to consider textbook costs over groceries any longer.