

Good afternoon,

My name is Kerry Leek, and I am a Faculty Librarian at Portland Community College. I am also the co-chair of the PCC Open Educational Resources Steering Committee. I am here today to speak in support of HB 4162 - specifically how it relates to providing support to Open Oregon Educational Resources, and textbook affordability.

Saving money on textbooks is vital to PCC students. As a community college librarian the first week of every term is very busy, especially fielding questions about textbooks. All are coming to the library hoping to avoid buying expensive textbooks. Lucky students may find a copy of their textbook that they can use for a few hours. Most do not.

I wish you could see the relief on students' faces when I tell them that they don't need to buy their textbook because there is a free Open Textbook available to them.

At PCC alone, classes making the switch to open textbooks have saved students almost 10 million dollars since 2017. This amounts to roughly \$10 saved for every \$1 spent. Close to 25% of our classes currently use OER to supplement or replace the traditional textbook.

This would not be possible without Oregon's continuing commitment to funding Open Oregon so that our instructors are paid for their time creating, adopting, adapting, and maintaining these Open Textbooks.

Open textbooks can also provide equitable access and instructor control of the materials not found in the traditional textbook. Open Textbooks can be more easily created and adapted to accommodate multiple modes of engagement - crucial for students who use screen readers and other accommodations that are rarely available with traditional textbooks.

Grants through Open Oregon enable faculty to create, adopt and adapt resources that are diverse, accessible and locally relevant to their students. However, there are always projects that go unfunded, maintenance that gets deferred and faculty who want to use open textbooks but can't get funding to do so.

This bill will help bridge the ever widening gap between the support Open Oregon can currently provide for open textbooks and the needs of our faculty and students statewide.

Thank you for your time, and I hope that I can count on your support of HB 4162: The Student Emergency Needs Package.