

March 28, 2025

FROM THE DESK OF

FIONA GISELLE HACKETT

Public Hearing HB 5006 - State Budget @ Liberty Theatre Astoria OR

Dear Co-Chair Lieber, Co-Chair Sanchez, and members of the Ways & Means Committee,

My name is Fiona Giselle Hackett, I am a non-traditional, first generation, low income, full time student at Clatsop Community College, and I am writing today to voice my support of HB 3182 and HB 3183, the Student Basic Needs and Workforce Stabilization Act.

I am not here solely to ask for your assistance and support of the HB 3182 and HB 3183. I also aim to show you how my time at Clatsop has inspired me to step up and be the change I wish to see in the world.

Like most non-traditional students, my college journey has been shaped by real-world experience. Ten years ago at the age of 17, I graduated from Seaside High School, then I went to trade school for makeup artistry and esthetics. My life path was halted by the pandemic, so returning and beginning higher education for the first time has required humility, patience, and resilience. Thankfully, transferrable skills from my former career like time management, self-discipline, and navigating unrealistic expectations have served me well through my intro to college life.

I want to be part of the solution that aids in uplifting and inspiring a healthier generation. Depression and suicide rates are at an all time high, especially in teens. Pursuing my AAOT degree is the foundation I need for creating a better future for myself and those I hope to serve, particularly traumatized individuals who are struggling with negative self-belief. As I've put in the work and also gained wisdom backed by experience I've realized that advocacy comes from being brave enough to start believing in change, coupled with following through and taking action.

I have found myself thriving in both academic and advocacy environments. Currently I hold a 4.0 GPA. Of course, doing this work would be much easier if resources like the Food Pantry and textbook assistance were continued to be properly funded. Without basic needs met, it's impossible for actively involved students like me to stay motivated and successful.

Research shows that lack of direction and financial stress prevent many students from continuing their education. I resonated with this. Clatsop County constituents deserve to know how many incredible resources are available here on campus. How else can we support the upcoming generations? Everything I hope to achieve is so the ones after me have a little bit of an easier time finding their place in the world.

My voice is one of many, but the reason is all rooted in similarity: this is why funding matters. By passing HB 3182 and HB 3183 you're investing in students who will go on to invest in our communities. Thank you for listening.

WRITTEN IN HOPES OF YOUR RECOGNITION AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT,



FIONA GISELLE HACKETT