

Submitter: Lucia Donovan
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

Chairs Lieber and Sanchez, Vice Chairs Girod, Gomberg, Smith and members of the committee, my name is Lucia Donovan. I'm a freshman at the University of Oregon. I'm writing in support of HB 3182, the Student Basic Needs and Workforce Stabilization Act. This investment is imperative in providing students with resources to survive and thrive in their education.

The Basic Needs funding would provide UO students with a food pantry, which would be transformative for campus. 41% of our students struggle with food and basic needs insecurity. That number is nearly doubled in BIPOC students compared to white students. This is an issue of both education and equality.

We grow up being told the importance of fueling our bodies and feeding our brains, but many students don't have that opportunity. Facing many hours of lectures, readings, homework and more is near impossible to do well on an empty stomach. The students that benefit from this funding are in a critical part of their development, and need to eat to sustain it. These beneficiaries will be doctors, business owners, maybe even lobbyists. This bill is an opportunity to fuel our future.

In the 2023-24 school year, our UO Basic Needs program served 3,769 students. At the time that was over 20% of UO students, and that number has only increased since. Food is the most basic line of support for the thousands of students trying to get a good education. The Basic Needs program provides this, but cannot do it without your support.

Students should not have to choose between groceries or rent. It is our responsibility to support them and their basic needs. Invest in them and our future with your vote in support of HB 3182.

Thank you.