



Make Academic Textbooks Affordable to Students! Support HB 2213 and HB 2214

PROBLEM: Textbook affordability is a prominent issue nationally, as the rising cost of required academic course materials is a barrier to many students pursuing higher education. These high costs cause some students to avoid buying textbooks or withdraw from courses altogether due to textbook fees, making it even harder for them to succeed in college.

SOLUTION: Support Oregon students by passing HB 2213 and HB 2214, thereby ensuring designated funding in the state budget for affordable textbooks and open education.

WHY THIS IS NEEDED:

Affordable textbook initiatives like HB 2213 and HB 2214 are needed if Oregon is **to achieve its 40-40-20 Education goal**, which reflects high-reaching targets for Oregonians' postsecondary education and training achievements over the next 6 years. According to Oregon's Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC), the cost for textbooks and supplies at Oregon public, private, and community colleges is **approximately \$1000.00 per year per student, representing 7% of the total cost of attendance**. In a 2018 report for HECC, researchers confirmed that Oregon students report textbook prices **affect their class selection decisions and the number of classes they'll take**. Moreover, students agree that **textbook costs can have a negative impact on their academic performance**, including earning poor grades and even dropping or withdrawing from classes.

The Oregon Legislature passed HB 2871 in 2015, which included the mandate to identify no-cost/low-cost classes in the course schedule. Then, in 2017, HB 2729 was passed, which built on existing efforts and included a statewide grant program for college and university faculty. Enabling passage of HB 2213 and HB 2214 would continue to support Oregon students. These bills require **giving students advance notice regarding costs of course materials and intentional planning for affordable textbooks** at each institution. In addition, the legislation will provide **continued funding to support textbook affordability**.

Oregon libraries have been key partners in implementing initiatives surrounding Open Educational Resources (referring to academic materials that lie in the public domain or otherwise allow free use), and have seen firsthand the positive impact of these efforts on students. **Please help all students in our state by voting in support of HB 2213 and HB 2214!**

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