

Oregon Student Association



Good Afternoon members of the committee,

My name is Felicia Dickinson and I am from the Oregon Student Association and the Director of Internal Affairs for the Associated Students of Western Oregon University. I am here today to speak about the positive impact Open Educational Resources have had for my fellow students, as well as myself. On average, I spend around \$500 per term on textbooks and I speak to students who spend at least \$1000 per term. We rely on student loans and financial aid to get us through school. As a result, students like us are on tight incomes. I work two jobs, working a combined 35 hours a week and it is a struggle to balance school and my jobs. It can be stressful to decide what gets priority: sleep or studying for a test. More often than not, books must be purchased brand new and used copies run out quickly. At Western Oregon University, our bookstore is smaller than most and students must act fast to secure the materials necessary to succeed in their courses.

Procuring the textbooks is only half the battle. There are so many styles of learning; auditory, visual, and tactile. Textbooks are not always the best way to learn material. This is where Open Educational Resources lend a very important hand. These sources allow material to come alive for the student. Would you rather look at a math problem on a page or watch a video of it being done step by step in front of you? Personally, I am horrible at math, so being able to watch videos of problems was very beneficial to me. Today, our society is moving towards incorporating technology into everyday life. The faculty and staff at WOU are open to the idea of incorporating Open Educational Resources into their classrooms, they just need the support from all of you to proceed. By passing House bills 2213 and 2214, we secure funding for the continued push of Open Educational Resources. Using Open Educational Resources allows students to immerse themselves using any medium that speaks to them and feel confident about what they are learning. By investing in Open Educational Resources, we are enhancing the quality of education for students that will last a lifetime.

Thank you for your time.

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