

Oregon Student Association



Good Afternoon Chair Doherty, Vice Chairs Alonso Leon and Helt, Members of the Committee,

My name is Ailyn Angel and I am currently a senior at Western Oregon University. I am here today to ask for your support for bills HB 2213 and HB 2214. I began pursuing my higher education at Portland Community College. My two years there were great, however, I struggled to pay for my textbooks while working full-time. I was a part of the many students who didn't know about low-cost resources and alternatives to the school's bookstore.

Since 1977, inflation has gone up 308%; yet, the inflation of textbooks has gone up 1041%. Considering the cost of living, which increases continually, student's are often put in difficult situations where they have to choose between meals, paying bills on time, or their academic success.

Since transferring to Western Oregon University, I have never bought a textbook at the school store because everything is extremely overpriced. However, I typically still can't afford to buy off of other websites, and I will usually rent them. I have been in situations where I buy a textbook, and it is minimally used in the course; where I buy a textbook listed on the University's website, the professor says we won't need it, and it is too late to return; and where I simply start off behind, because I can't afford the textbook when I need it.

I also know many other students who have been in these situations. Sure, there are professors who go out of their way to not require textbooks, and I am extremely thankful for them; but, it should not be up to individual faculty members to help or hinder the academic success of students. Both students and faculty need access to Open Educational Resources (OER) in order to lower the cost of textbooks and enable the success of students pursuing higher education.

Please support HB 2213 and HB 2214. Thank you for your time.

OREGON STUDENT ASSOCIATION

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