



The League of Women Voters of Oregon, established in 1920, is a grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.

February 13, 2025

To: Chair [Rep. Zach Hudson](#), Vice Chairs [Rep. Lisa Fragala](#) and [Rep. Darin Harbick](#)
and members of the [House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development](#)

Re: [HB 3183](#) – Open Education Resources Program – **Support**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon supports HB 3183, which would appropriate money to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission for purposes of the Open Educational Resources Program. The funds would continue to provide no-cost, low-cost textbooks and course materials across Oregon’s colleges and universities.

Our support for this bill is based on League position: **The State General Fund should give high priority to financial aid for students.**

Because of the low level of state funding for higher education, in-state tuition and fees for four-year institutions in Oregon are the 12th highest in the nation, and for 2-year institutions Oregon costs rank 5th in the nation.

Paying fees and tuition is only part of the burden on higher education students. A single textbook can cost as much as \$600, so a [2022 survey](#) of students at Oregon State University revealed that 61% had not purchased textbooks due to the cost. [Open Oregon Educational Resources data](#) collected over six years from Community College students in the state have revealed that “the average materials cost for the two-year Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer degree in 2021 was \$1,143.62, a 23% drop since 2019 and a 47% drop since the study began in 2015”.

We urge your Support for HB 3183.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Handwritten signature of Lisa Bentson in black ink.

Lisa Bentson
President LWVOR

Handwritten signature of Jean W. Pierce in black ink.

Jean Pierce
Social Policy Coordinator

Handwritten signature of Charlie Bloomer in black ink.

Charlie Bloomer
Youth Council Member