



HB NAVIGATING PATHWAYS TO PROSPERITY

NATIONWIDE, 2 OUT OF 5 STUDENTS ARE FOOD INSECURE. IN OREGON, 41% OF STUDENTS REPORTED FOOD INSECURITY IN 2020.

In July 2019, Oregon Department of Human Services examined and reinterpreted the federal language for college student SNAP eligibility which provided needed increased support to Oregon's college students, but also increased the caseload on DHS caseworkers

IF PASSED, HB WOULD ESTABLISH

- A benefits navigator on every public college and university campus in Oregon.
- Community colleges and universities develop a "consortium" or "community of practice" to develop and/or continue to participate in ways for students to sign up for the benefits they qualify for, minimally SNAP and STEP. Other benefit programs could include housing assistance and the Oregon Health Plan, and ETIC.
- Colleges and universities will include students in campus wide planning on how best to reduce food and housing insecurity.
- Each college with a staff member will be required to cross train staff with DHS guidance on each college campus, who will be employees of the college. Colleges will be responsible for the administrative costs related to receiving training from DHS.

SNAP DOLLARS HELP OREGON'S ECONOMY AND LEADS TO STUDENT SUCCESS.

COLLEGE STUDENTS NOT ACCESSING SNAP BENEFITS EQUATES WITH AN ANNUAL LOSS OF AT LEAST \$4.2 BILLION IN BENEFITS NATIONALLY.

EVERY \$1 SPENT IN SNAP PRODUCES AN AVERAGE \$1.70 WORTH OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AND IS AN EFFICIENT WAY TO GENERATE JOBS.

THE PASSAGE OF HB WOULD MAKE OREGON THE NATIONAL LEADER IN SUPPORTING COLLEGE STUDENTS.

WHAT IS A BENEFITS NAVIGATOR?

A Benefits Navigator would provide peer support that follows DHS model but holds institutional knowledge and can spend time with students, provide support through the application process, and point them to other resources to reduce/eliminate basic needs insecurities.

Benefits Navigators on campuses would increase support to students and reduce caseload for DHS. This model has support from DHS.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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HB _____ IS SUPPORTED BY