***TEMPLATE for Letter to Legislators: HB 2213/2214***

Dear *YOUR SENATOR OR REPRESENTATIVE NAME HERE*,

My name is *YOUR NAME HERE* and, as your constituent and a member/an ally *CHOOSE ONE* of the Oregon Library Association (OPTIONAL: and library employee at *YOUR LIBRARY NAME HERE*), I am asking for your support of libraries. In particular, I call your attention to **HB 2213 and HB 2214**.

**HB 2213** (“Relating to academic textbook affordability”) continues legislative policy in favor of affordable textbooks for Oregon’s college and university students. It promotes reporting of textbook adoptions in time **for students to budget expenses at the time they register for classes**. It also requires public **colleges and universities to develop a textbook affordability plan**, which will help integrate lower textbook costs with other long-term goals.

**HB 2214** (“Relating to open educational resources”) continues funding **for ongoing work to lower textbook costs and encourage open education**. According to Open Oregon Educational Resources (openoregon.org), open education grant funding has resulted in **estimated student savings of $4 per $1 spent** during the granting period.

Expensive textbooks are a barrier to student success, and can have a negative impact on retention, time to degree, and completion. **Open Educational Resources (OER) are available for free online or in print at low cost**. Further, because they are openly licensed, they can be customized to meet the needs of specific students and learning objectives. Research shows that students do as well or better with OER than they do with expensive, traditionally copyrighted textbooks.

Oregon’s community colleges and universities have made tremendous progress in raising awareness and adopting OER. Statewide funding **supports faculty as they redesign their courses around OER**. Students benefit by **saving an estimated $100 per course**.

As a librarian and as your constituent, I urge you to support **HB 2213/2214**, building on Oregon’s successful track record of policy and funding **to promote textbook affordability**. Your support would make college and university more accessible to Oregonians.

Thank you for your time and support of Oregon’s libraries.

Regards,

*YOUR NAME HERE*