

Hayley Rowe  
University of Connecticut  
Storrs, CT 06269

Testimony in support of HB 6117

Dear Members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. In favor for HB 6117. My name is Hayley Rowe and I am a student at the University of Connecticut. I am writing to support HB 6117: An Act Concerning the Use of Open-Source Textbooks in Higher Education.

Entering college as a freshman, I underestimated the expenses that I would incur. Signing up for Fall semester classes was exciting but I cannot say the same about purchasing the required textbooks. In the Co-op my shopping basket quickly filled and became weighty. After the cashier checked out all my books, I hesitated when handing over my debt card. I prefer to keep my bank account fairly constant by not purchasing things or when I have to spend money I am very frugal. After leaving the Co-op in disbelief about my textbook prices, I knew that I needed to find a job. With the loans I already took out to pay for college, I did not need more debt due to textbooks.

Over the course of two semesters I have spent \$1,039.73 on textbooks. Unfortunately, I was not able to buy any used textbooks because they sold out or because the textbooks were bundled with access codes. Typically textbooks came in a plastic shrink wrap. It was cleared stated that if the shrink wrap is removed the textbook is not returnable. Before I opened any textbook I had to question whether or not I truly wanted to commit to the class. I also considered if purchasing the textbooks was necessary for passing the class. Consequently, I did not open most of my textbooks until the very last minute. By "the very last minute" I mean until my free trail with Web Assign and ALEKS ran out or until I had a test coming up that I needed to prepare for. One thing for sure I am *not* willing to jeopardize my grade.

My friend and I are taking a Communications course. We recently had an exam and decided to study together for it. When we would reference textbooks pages I noticed that things did not add up. After comparing her book to mine I realized that she had bought a used Communication textbook. I had the new book. Everything is virtually the same expect that I have a few chapters missing. So, I derived the conclusion that I paid more money for fewer chapters. Due to this experience and countless others, I would prefer to have cheaper alternatives. So, I urge all members of this committee to support HB 6117. Once again, thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Sincerely,  
Hayley Rowe