

Katelyn Burke

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Testimony in support of HB 6117

Dear Members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is Katelyn Burke and I am a student at the University of Connecticut's Greater Hartford campus. I am writing to support HB 6117: An Act Concerning the Use of Open-Source Textbooks in Higher Education.

In total, I have spent \$150 on textbooks for my classes. For the average student, this is not a small sum of money by any means, especially when this cost is paid out of pocket. While this is a large amount of money, to my friends and many other students, I would be considered "lucky" – lucky because the vast majority of my friends have spent upwards of \$300 on their books, and in some cases, just on *one* class. The fact that a \$150 out of pocket expense is considered cheap speaks volumes for just how big of a problem textbook costs are. I firmly believe that open source textbooks and other cheaper alternatives will help greatly to relieve this financial burden on students.

Higher education is already a huge investment for students like myself. I urge the members of this committee to please support HB 6117 and help us cut back on costs where possible.

Once again, thank you for this opportunity to submit a testimony in favor of HB 6117.

Thank you,

Katelyn Burke