

**MARK GUERRERA
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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 Mark Guerrero and I
am a recent graduate of Central Connecticut State University. I am writing to
support HB 6117: An Act Concerning the Use of Open-Source Textbooks in
Higher Education.**

**When I enrolled at CCSU in 2010, various groups of people including family
and friends, as well as former colleagues had suggested that the textbooks I buy
for my college semester come from third-party sellers such as Amazon.com, and
Half.com, a subsidiary of eBay, rather than purchasing from the campus
bookstore. The online retailers, previously mentioned, sell used-textbooks that
average a cheaper price for the same information. However, much like buying
used from the universities themselves, these textbooks can range in quality from
heavily damaged to like-new, and they are priced in relation to how acceptable of
a condition they are in. Since these used textbooks have been in circulation for
years, their extensive handling has caused the information contained within to
become damaged, and in some cases unusable. We should not have to sacrifice
knowledge for affordability. It is shameful that the resale value of all textbooks
purchased by one student at the end of a semester may equal the cost of the
highest priced textbook that they bought in the same semester. Open-source
textbooks provide countless benefits for both students and faculty alike.
Professors may provide their students with supplemental, suggested out-of-class
reading that is available for free, which ensures an effective lesson plan. If I had
had access to open-source material during my time at the University, my term
papers would have been less stressful as I would not have been financially
burdened by paywalls preventing me from studying horticulture practices in
Victorian England. Open-source material in higher education simply makes for a
better alternative to the traditional reasoning of being denied access to
knowledge for the sake of profit.**

So, I urge all members of this committee to support HB 6117.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Sincerely,
MARK GUERRERA