

Matthew Pilkiewicz

Trinity College

300 Summit Street, Hartford, Ct, 06106

Dear Members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is Matthew Pilkiewicz and I am a student at Trinity College. I am writing to support HB 6117: An Act Concerning the Use of Open-Source Textbooks in Higher Education.

Last semester I took only 4 courses and spent a bit more than \$550 on my textbooks. Not only was this more than double what both my parents and I had expected to spend, but this was even after buying all but one of the books used. This semester I had to dish out an additional \$400 on textbooks. I was forced to drop a class and add a new class with a new textbook, which ended up costing me another \$170 to rent and, in addition, I was unable to return my already rented textbook for the course I had dropped. This resulted in me spending over \$1,000 on textbooks that don't even contain all the information my professors would like to teach. Another cost to these textbooks is online services. Most math or science textbooks now have online services (some of which are mandatory for the class) that cost additional money if you do buy the books used. I support open textbooks because I do not want to spend more on textbooks in a single semester than what my parents had to spend in their entire college careers. I also want textbooks that are easily accessible and that my own professors can even have their part in writing. I would love a textbook written or modified by my professor that covers all the same material we cover in classes.

So, I urge all members of this committee to support HB 6117. Once again, thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Sincerely,

Matthew Pilkiewicz