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Testimony in support of HB 6117

Dear Members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee,

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

As a student focused mainly on math and science, I have already paid more for books in my first two semesters than I had ever imagined would be required for supplementary class materials. My mother works for Pearson Education, a leading textbook company, and despite her employee discount I have still needed to spend an average of \$350 on textbooks each semester. If even just one of my professors opted to use an open-source textbook, I would be incredibly grateful to put that money towards the other obvious costs of my college education. Reducing textbook expenditure by even just \$50 next semester would be considered a victory for me. I know that I speak for countless other students in my position when I say that the overwhelming cost of textbooks causes a great deal of unavoidable stress at the beginning of each new semester. Sometimes I consider taking courses less beneficial to my education simply because they require cheaper textbooks. I want to get the most I possibly can out of my four years as an undergraduate student, and I would have a much better experience doing this with the implementation of open-source textbooks.

I urge the members of this committee to consider the struggle faced by college students like myself when deciding whether or not to support HB 6117. Once again, thank you for the opportunity to share this testimony.

Sincerely,
Molly Schineller