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Testimony in support of HB 6117

Dear Members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify. For my name is Oluwatoyin Akinnusotu 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.

During my first semester at the university I remember having to pay over 700 dollars for my textbooks for that year. To add insult to injury by the time the year had ended my textbooks were worth practically nothing because the professors were either moving on to a new edition or they had a custom book that the Uconn co-op would not pay for because it was unpredictable about whether or not the professor would still use the same book. During my end of my freshman and sophomore year I had been lucky enough to have been accepted into an organization on campus that had provided us with a 300 book stipend at the beginning of each semester. With this money I was able to pay for just two of my textbooks out of the six that are required for my classes. But last semester the organization was forced to discontinue funding due to budget cuts and this forced me into a dilemma for this semester. I had to take biochemistry which is a requirement for medical school but the book which is sold only in bulk with other material was 288 dollars. This was merely for one of my three classes that required I spend a large amount of money on textbooks. This is a dilemma that many college students across the country have to deal with and it usually affects us academically because we are not able to afford a tool that is supposed to be used for the class.

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

Sincerely,

Oluwatoyin Akinnusotu