

**Raekwon Wheeler
Trinity College
300 Summit Street, Hartford, CT 06106, Box 701675**

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 Raekwon Wheeler 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.

I am fortunate enough to have the cost of my textbooks covered with scholarship money, but there are many students who do not have this luxury. While working with ConnPIRG on Trinity's campus, I have encountered many students who have horrifying stories about the cost of their textbooks. I am constantly hearing students complain about spending \$200 for one mathematics textbook, only to find out that they test out of the class and if they return the book they are offered a mere \$15-\$25. Even though I have not spent anything out of pocket for my books, I too, have witnessed first-hand just how absurd some of the "bundles" are. This semester I am taking college algebra and was asked to buy an access code to an online website. The only way to buy this access code was to purchase the textbook/software bundle. I still have not needed to use the book for any assignments or readings. This happens to many students across campus; the only difference is that they're spending hundreds of dollars for a book that is nonessential and overpriced.

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

Sincerely,

Raekwon Wheeler