

Yevgeniya Zhukova
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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 Yevgeniya Zhukova and I am a student at University of New Haven. I am writing to support HB 6117: An Act Concerning the Use of Open-Source Textbooks in Higher Education.

I've been studying for the year and a half at the University of New Haven and will obtain my Master's in Environmental Engineering this spring. Almost every course I have taken required spending real money to buy a textbook. As I moved to Connecticut not long ago, I didn't have a chance to borrow the book from some friends or fellow students, because I didn't know anybody here, so I had to buy all necessary textbooks out of my own pocket. Furthermore I am getting my Masters Degree, and that means that the prices on my textbooks are even higher than those ones needed for undergraduate courses. I've paid thousands of dollars for my education, but in addition - hundreds for my textbooks. So there were a lot of expenses for me resulting from textbooks alone and this makes it harder to finance my studying. I am convinced it will make life easier for students if the cheaper alternative of open source textbooks were provided. I would have been glad if open source materials could have benefitted me but I won't have that opportunity because I'm already done with all my classes. However, I can make some positive impact on future students, who will face the same problem later, and help them now by supporting HB 6117: An Act Concerning the Use of Open-Source Textbooks in Higher Education.

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

Sincerely,
Yevgeniya Zhukova