

**Saman Azimi  
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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 Saman Azimi and I am a student at UConn. I am writing to support HB 6117: An Act Concerning the Use of Open-Source Textbooks in Higher Education.**

**During my first two years at UConn, I've generally managed to avoid overspending (relatively) on textbooks by resorting to rentals on Amazon and other online textbook exchanges. Now that I'm deep in my second year, I've found that it's much more difficult to access textbooks because in the business school many contain codes with associated online question sets. Because of those, I spent over \$300 this semester on two textbooks, and just eBooks at that. It's shameful that an institute of learning, or a nation that prides itself on access to education, allows students to be subjected to such unreasonable fees. With just about \$300 spent on textbooks this semester, I've gotten off with relative ease considering many of my colleagues and classmates are paying double that amount, and are not alone in paying around \$1200 per year, according to the College Board.**

**Decreasing the cost of textbooks would be monumental in increasing access to higher education for students. If students aren't working extra hours to afford textbooks, taking out bigger loans, or simply going without the texts and impairing their comprehension of the material and their personal growth, they'll be learning, improving themselves, improving the university, the economy, and society.**

**Open textbooks have been proven to be effective in other states and will do incredible work in CT to make us a leader in affordable education. Their successful implementation will be a great service to the tens of thousands of students in the state, like me, and will certainly be a huge source of pride.**

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

**Sincerely,  
Saman Azimi**