

House Finance

02/08/2024 Upon Adjournment

HB24-1018 College Textbook Sales Use Tax Exemption

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

| Name, Position, Representing | Typed Text of Testimony |
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| Isabelle Burgess For ASCSU | <p>My name is Isabelle Burgess and I am a first year college student at Colorado State University in Fort Collins. I am testifying on the sales tax that is placed upon textbooks that prove difficult to obtain said textbooks. Coming from a home with an educator, textbooks were always a staple. I never truly understood why we had so little if they were so important. As I grew up, textbooks became more prevalent in my education. And as I get closer to finishing my first year, I can say with confidence that I have spent over \$500 on textbooks that cannot be returned. In the city of Fort Collins alone, the sales tax is 4.35% which doesn't sound like a lot but it is. On an online textbook of \$299, \$13.00 gets added to the total, and that doesn't even grant full access of the book. Not everyone can afford this extra money, no matter how small it may be. I know I can't. As I said before, I come from a home of an educator, I rely on my financial aid to help with schooling. Having this tax affects the budgeting of money that my family and I do because I never really know how much these textbooks will cost. Is it \$200, \$250, or maybe even more, but don't forget that you have an extra charge of up to \$20 or more. College is already expensive, thousands of dollars every four months until graduation. Textbooks are an added burden that is something we have no choice but to afford. Thank you for your time.</p> |
| Tangia Zheng For Associated students of colorado state university | <p>I'm Tangia Zheng, the deputy director of finance in ASCSU and I am a second year student at CSU where I am studying finance. First off, I want to thank you all for listening to the voice of students in the state of Colorado.</p> <p>This bill would help relieve financial burden amongst every college student attending a college or university. most students need to buy new textbooks every semester for classes and in my experience, there is a minimum of one textbook required for each class. In the beginning of each semester, I see students scrambling to find the cheapest option of their textbooks, sometimes left with no affordable</p> |

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| | <p>options and spend upwards of nearly \$100 for a text book to sometimes barely be used.</p> <p>I'm sure many of you may have or know someone that has experienced financial stress when going through their higher education, this is a common experience for students. In addition to the financial burden of the cost of college, the cost of textbooks end up piling on top of these expenses. The sales tax and use taxes on textbooks which is required by all student during their college experience has been a financial burden for too long.</p> <p>Ultimately, whether textbooks are old or new, the taxes on them are a financial detriment on most college students especially when factoring in cost of living and tuition.</p> <p>I hope you all take this into consideration, I appreciate you giving us your time, thank you.</p> |
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