

Letter Regarding HB 1073

PASSED 25-0-0

Indiana State Legislators:

The price of college tuition rose an average of 6.6% across the nation in 2007, and is set to continue rising throughout the foreseeable future. With these price increases, the burden of paying for a college education is becoming even more difficult for students and their families. College affordability is critical to maintaining the highly educated workforce that Indiana and all of America need to continue maintaining and growing our strong economy. While financial aid programs, scholarships, loans and grants help to close this tuition affordability gap, college textbook expenses are rarely covered and have a large impact on students, especially those at the middle and lower levels of the income scale.

The College Board estimates that the national average cost for textbooks at four-year private colleges in 2006-07 is \$935. Specifically at Notre Dame, it is estimated to be an \$850 expense. We understand that exempting academically required textbooks from the Indiana state sales tax would take away a few million dollars from the Indiana tax revenue base; however, considering that many of the students impacted are from Indiana and all reside here during the majority of the year, much of this money will be returned to the tax base as it is spent on other goods and services in local Indiana economies. Essentially, a tax on textbooks is a tax on education, and considering how much money students and their families currently pay to attend college, the status quo is becoming unacceptable. We often hear our politicians and governments promising to lower taxes in order to help the people; we respectfully ask that the Indiana State Legislature help us as students and residents of this state. Eliminating this tax would minutely affect the revenues of Indiana, yet it would help significantly ease the financial burden of students and their families who are already overwhelmed by enormous educational expenses. We appreciate your consideration of this measure as outlined in HB 1073, and thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Maris K. Braun
Chairperson of the Student Senate

