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NICK HOHEISEL  
97TH DISTRICT

## Testimony in support of HB2265

Chairman Smith, Vice-Chairman Mason, and Ranking Member Gartner, thank you for holding a hearing today on HB 2265, which would make required college textbooks tax exempt when purchased at a university bookstore. I'm proud to cosponsor this legislation with my colleague from across the aisle, Rep. Brandon Woodard.

We've seen the cost of higher education rise in the last two decades, and with it the cost of required college textbooks. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average cost of attending college in the US increased 63% between 2006 and 2016. During that time, the average cost of college textbooks rose 88%. This means that textbooks and other course materials have become so expensive that some students simply can't afford them, even if it means their grades will suffer as a result.

Exempting required textbooks from sales tax will give college students a little more money in their pocket, allowing them to reinvest these savings back into the community. HB2265 is similar to what is already on the books in Missouri, Iowa, Utah, Virginia and Pennsylvania.

Thank you for considering HB2265 today.

*Rep. Nick Hoheisel*

*97<sup>th</sup> District*

