

Ways & Means Committee Members,

I am emailing you in support of Bill HB 792; that if passed, will expand the Back-to-School tax-free week to include textbooks, which are not currently included.

During the Pandemic, many students were disproportionately affected as many student workers lost their on-campus jobs. And making textbooks tax-exempt would put dollars back into the pockets of hardworking college students- and for many of us, every dollar truly counts.

For students who cannot afford to purchase textbooks, it can be harder to perform well in class needing to borrow from other students. Occasionally our library will have course textbooks on reserve, but this is not the case for most classes. None of the states that border Maryland tax textbooks; as a state that prides itself in being a leader in education (and rightfully so), it is ironic that we are behind the time with regard to this issue.