

February 8, 2021

To the Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Samantha Daily and I am currently a Salisbury University transfer student. I graduated from the College of Southern Maryland in May of 2020 and studied at the University of North Alabama for three years prior. I have a disability that makes reading, writing, word finding, and comprehension difficult. This means I must focus on school more than a student without epilepsy. I cannot work during the school year because of this, making money tight and adding stress on top of everything else. It is difficult to save money for emergencies. I recently ran over a nail and had to replace my tire. I am about to be 25, I can't keep asking my parents for help when something happens. But college makes saving money close to impossible. I do not qualify for unemployment, and I did not receive a stimulus check. I rely on my Pell grant and scholarships to help me survive the school year. The money the school gives me mostly goes to books, art supplies for my classes because I am an art minor, and food. I work three jobs over the summer and pay my rent in full for the school year so I will be set, but that still is not enough. Doing this takes away opportunities like internships and other possible resume-boosting jobs. However, I must do what I must do. Making textbooks tax exempt would be a huge step in the right direction. Possibly motivating future generations to take the college path, because it would make college more affordable for students, and would ease the financial burden that we all face.

— Please vote in favor of HB 792 to send it to the full House for further consideration.

