

Resolution ABTS:01192014-A
Resolution Supporting the Affordable College Textbook Act

Sponsor: University of Minnesota

WHEREAS the high cost of textbooks currently prevents up to 7 out of every 10 students from purchasing all of their required textbooks during their academic career; and

WHEREAS textbooks may not be fully utilized within a classroom as they may not fully apply to the content of the course and cannot easily be modified due to the lack of flexibility in book licenses; and

WHEREAS the cost of publishing a textbook can be diminished through their acquisition in a digital format while the students who wish will also be able to purchase a paper copy; and

WHEREAS sustainable business models may be attained through an open textbook publishing model where experts are paid to write textbooks at a cost comparable to that of a traditional publishing company, but the digital copy of the textbooks are published free of cost online and made accessible to the general public; and

WHEREAS high quality and useful information should be made available to as many individuals as possible and the high costs of tuition and living nationwide may be detrimentally impacting the utilization of educational materials; and

WHEREAS the Affordable College Textbook Act ([S.1704 / H.R. 3538](#)) will make textbooks more affordable and accessible through the expansion of open educational resources; and

WHEREAS the Affordable College Textbook Act would:

- Implement a competitive grant program through the Department of Education, allowing higher education institutions to launch pilot programs that use open educational resources to reduce the cost of textbooks for students; and
- Allow colleges, faculty, and students from around the country to freely access the materials developed or improved through the grants; and
- Require the recipients of grants to evaluate the impact of their respective pilot programs and submit a plan for spreading the materials to other institutions.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Big Ten Students supports the Affordable College Textbook Act and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Association of Big Ten Students will encourage the further evaluation of Open Textbooks by university faculty to most adequately consider their potential use in some instances as replacements for more expensive course materials and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Association of Big Ten Students will lobby for the passage of the Affordable College Textbook Act to federal representatives during Big Ten on the Hill.

Reference links:

- Link to bill text: [S.1704 / H.R. 3538](#)
- Advocacy resources from the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition: <http://sparc.arl.org/advocacy/national/act>