



# ***PRESS RELEASE***

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## **Skyrocketing Costs of College Textbooks Under Fire:** *AB 1548 Would Bring Transparency to Practices of the Publishing Industry*

Berkeley, CA – College students in California may soon have the information they need to bring down the prices of their textbooks.

Assemblymember Jose Solorio (69<sup>th</sup> Assembly District) has introduced AB 1548, the Transparency in College Textbook Publishing Practices Act.

The bill would prohibit the sale of any textbook on a public university campus until certain transparency requirements are met by the publishers, including disclosure of:

- the price difference between bundled textbooks and the same unbundled textbooks
- the substantive differences between new editions and prior editions of textbooks
- estimates of how long new editions of textbooks will remain in print
- any compensation provided to faculty or administrators as inducement to adopt particular textbooks for university courses

California college students currently spend an average of nearly \$1000 per year on textbooks. According to a 2005 GAO report, college textbook prices have increased by 186% between 1986 and 2004, almost triple the rate of inflation over the same period. And most faculty report rarely use bundled textbooks (i.e. books shrink-wrapped with CD ROMs and workbooks) in their courses, which are more expensive than unbundled textbooks.

In introducing the bill, Assemblymember Solorio said: “The future of the California economy depends on an educated workforce. But the cost of textbooks has increased the total cost of college to such a degree that students are being turned away.”

John Kane, a second year student at Berkeley City College, said: “This year I paid more for books than I did for tuition.”

Nadir Vissanjy, a student at Sonoma State University and chair of the California State Student Association, said: “These prices aren’t natural. They’re artificially inflated. AB 1548 will create a transparent process for the textbook publishing industry to help students to afford their textbooks.”

Assemblyman Jose Solorio represents the cities of Anaheim, Garden Grove, and Santa Ana.

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