



PRESS RELEASE

MARCH 26, 2007

CONTACT:

CHRIS VAETH
GREENLINING INSTITUTE
CELL (917) 687-0431

DAVID KERSTEN
OFFICE OF ASSEMBLYMEMBER JOSE SOLORIO
CELL (916) 698-2805 OFFICE (916) 319-2069

***Assembly Committee on Higher Education Takes Up Textbook Costs:
AB 1548 To Be Heard Tuesday, March 27 – Press Conference Prior to Hearing***

PRESS CONFERENCE WITH STUDENTS – COMMITTEE HEARING – PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

WHAT: The Assembly Higher Education Committee will hear Assemblymember Jose Solorio's (69th Assembly District) AB 1548, the Transparency in College Textbook Publishing Practices Act. College students from across the state will hold a press conference prior to the hearing and will testify in support of the bill at the hearing.

WHEN: **Tuesday, March 27 - Brief press conference at 1:30 PM, hearing begins immediately following press conference**

WHERE: **Room 437 of State Capitol Building, Sacramento, CA**
(press conference will take place beforehand in hallway in front of Room 437)

WHY: 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. Publishers have contributed to rapidly rising costs using a number of techniques.

To address this issue, AB 1548 would prohibit the sale of any textbook on a public university campus until certain transparency requirements are met by the publishers:

- 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

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."

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."

###

The Greenlining Institute is a multi-ethnic public policy, research and advocacy center.