

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Subject: Textbook Cost Savings Idea for SC University and College Students: Leverage Volume to bring costs down.

Dear Governor Haley:

The July 17th issue of The State contained an article in Section C concerning the sky rocketing cost of text books. I wrote a response that may or may not appear. The gist is that professors are putting their own notes on line in lieu of students buying texts. There were other novel ideas expressed also. **There is a better way that saves students money.**

The problem is there is nothing like holding a book in your hands, underlining, highlighting and studying it. Websites come and go and are not always kept up to date, may change and students do not always print everything off, three hole punch and keep.

The idea is for introductory texts, that professors agree each year on one text by university or state wide in the public system for remedial math through calculus -to cite an example from my area.

The state or university should collectively bargain with publishers to reduce costs based on VOLUME. Texts should not cost over \$100 or \$150. Details would have to be worked out since there is more than one bookstore at for instance USC.

Companies such as WalMart pit computer makers such as HP and others against each other for yearly contracts for computers and related equipment. The University level this should be such a bulk sale opportunity for texts.

In my recent career as Chief Statistician working on contracts with Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, a young analyst asked me a standard question about sampling medical records. I said, " You can find the formula for that in Chapter 6 of a well-know book on introductory sampling or in the text you used." He said his professor put the notes for the course on the web and he did not have them and the website is no longer maintained. Why not have a book, study it and keep it. But the book should not cost \$300.

Sincerely yours,



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