ALASKA SENATE MINORITY

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: September 5th, 2024

Bipartisan Textbook Cost Transparency Act Becomes Law

FAIRBANKS – Today, at the University of Alaska Fairbanks main campus Governor Mike Dunleavy signed into law Senate Bill 13 the Textbook Cost Transparency Act which passed the legislature with overwhelming support from Republicans, Democrats, Independents and most importantly students.

The Textbook Cost Transparency Act was inspired by UAF constituents who reached out to Senator Myers regarding the high cost of textbooks and their struggles to afford required class materials. For many students, the high cost of materials can influence their decision to take a course, as they are often subject to a captive market that has seen prices skyrocket over recent decades. The Act aims to provide students with vital information about textbook and course material costs during class registration, helping them make informed choices and financially plan.

"SB 13 is a bill that puts the students first, and students are excited to see that. Knowing the cost of textbooks up-front will be a game-changer for students, especially those who might be struggling to afford their courses." – ASUAF Student Body President Paul Menke.

“As the Representative for the district that includes the University Alaska Fairbanks main campus and a Nanook alum, addressing the needs of students is a high priority,” said Rep. Ashley Carrick (D-West Fairbanks). “The Textbook Cost Transparency Act seeks to address the rising costs of higher education that students are facing by giving them more information about their textbook costs. I am pleased that this common sense, bipartisan measure became law and will improve the student experience.”

Senator Robert Myers (R-North Pole), who sponsored SB 13 said, “The Textbook Cost Transparency Act guarantees that students have the essential information about textbook and course material costs at the time of class registration, empowering them to make responsible, cost-effective decisions. I appreciate the Governor for backing this commonsense measure that promotes transparency and accountability.”

For more information, please contact Dawson Mann in Senator Myers’ office at 907-451-2212.

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