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House Bill 10 Version A Sponsor Statement

“An Act relating to the costs of and charges for textbooks and other course materials required for University of Alaska courses; and providing for an effective date.”

For many years, the cost of higher education has been increasing well above the rate of inflation, making a college education difficult or even unrealistic to obtain for many students and working families. As costs have increased, higher education seekers have taken out crippling loans or gone to other extraordinary means to pay for school. As students work to balance the many costs of attending college classes, including tuition, room and board, and other expenses it is beneficial that transparency exists in the costs of text books.

House Bill 10, the Textbook Cost Transparency Act provides important information about the costs of textbooks and course materials for classes while students are registering for classes, thus allowing them to make informed choices and financially plan for school. The goal of this bill is to provide students with as much information regarding costs as early as possible in the registration process with clearly defined definitions integrated into the University of Alaska’s shared online course catalog (UAOnline). By allowing students to see which classes come at “zero-cost” or “low-cost” they will be able to make more informed financial decisions more easily.

While the faculty are the deciders of course materials and are often keen to ensure an affordable class experience for students, this bill simply lets students know the cost of their classes before completing the registration process. Please join me in supporting House Bill 10, the Textbook Cost Transparency Act and supporting University of Alaska Students.