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of College Stores

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Connecticut Legislature Considers Raising Textbook Prices By Repealing Tax Exemption

OBERLIN, OH (April 23, 2009) – A provision of the Connecticut budget currently being considered by state lawmakers would reintroduce a regressive sales tax on students least able to afford it, adding an additional 6% to the cost of higher education textbooks.

“College students and their families are faced with a variety of costs in paying for college,” said **Richard Hershman**, director of government relations for the [National Association of College Stores](http://www.nacs.org) (NACS). “While textbooks are both required and vital to a student’s academic success, they are rarely covered by traditional financial aid, leaving students and their families to pay these expenses out of their own pockets.

“With many students struggling to work and pay their tuition, fees, and books at Connecticut schools, this extra tax, which could exceed more than \$250 per student over four years of college, would add one more burden onto the already high cost of higher education. Perversely, as prices increase, the state would collect more money from students.”

Hershman adds that none of Connecticut’s neighboring states tax college textbooks, thus the proposal would punish students for attending college in Connecticut and shopping within the state. If enacted, the state of Connecticut would be moving in the opposite direction of other states that are moving toward exempting college textbooks from state sales tax.

NACS and its members support efforts to enhance affordable and equitable access to quality course materials, and has long been an advocate for including course materials in tax credits and the elimination of state sales taxes on course materials.

About NACS

Headquartered in Oberlin, Ohio, the National Association of College Stores (NACS) is the professional trade association representing the college store industry. NACS represents more than 3,100 member stores that work daily to serve America’s college students while supporting the academic missions of higher education institutions. Additional information on the college store industry can be found online at www.nacs.org.

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