

13 de Febrero del 2013

Tuition Equity

HB 2787

Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chairs Harker and Huffman. Thank you for the opportunity to speak. For the record my name is Karen Ramirez, I am a 9th grader at Reynolds High School and live in Representative Gorsek's district. Being a freshman, most people don't expect me to think about college, to even know its meaning, or what it stands for, but being myself I have thought and talked about college since I was 6, just a little girl that didn't want to follow her mom's step of having multiple jobs just because she didn't get the right education, and was an immigrant. I wanted, and still want, something bigger, a future, a career. I'm on the right track, with good grades, advanced courses, and determination.

Unfortunately because of my background, that I didn't chose, I'm being forced to pay extra money that I don't have, when all I want to do is pursue my life goal. When people ask me what I want to do after high school, I don't respond with "I want to go to college." I respond with "I WILL go to college." as I sit here today, I'm missing school, because I know that these few hours that I sit here and talk to you, will pay off tomorrow when you pass this bill and make life easier for me. I'm not just here talking for myself, I'm here talking for any immigrant that has the same struggle of paying an out of state tuition, when they have lived in this state since they can remember. I'm a first generation; I will be the first one to graduate from high school, the first one to go to college, the first one with a degree. I will be a role model for the younger kids in my family; I will make the right decisions in life, just as I hope you will as well.

Also, there's a letter from parents from the Reynolds School District and I would more than appreciate it if you read it. Thank you for your time.

Karen Ramirez

9<sup>th</sup> grader at Reynolds High School