

Testimony of Fatuma Eca

Before the House Committee on Higher Education

February 25, 2013

RE: HB 2838

My name is Fatuma Eca. I attend Roosevelt High School in Portland, OR. I'm 17 years old and I am a senior. I came to the United States when I was nine years old in 2004 and I have been living in the United States for about 8 years.

I'm the only girl out of all my four brothers. My oldest brother graduated from De La Salle North Catholic High School last year and now he is attending at a University OSU (Corvallis) and so far he has been the first child to graduate from the family.

Education in our family is very important. My parents always want us to do well and finish high school and earn a diploma. My parents have saved money for every child in the family to go to college so that they don't want us to take loans. My mother always tells "Never ever dare to take loans because they can ruin your bank accounts and have bad debts."

My parents want us to have a really successful future, they want us to finish college and attend really nice universities. My brother has already shown one example by graduating from high school with a really excellent GPA and a diploma. We are not poor but we are a middle class, our family income is normal. My parents plan to pay for our colleges by saving up the money from the bank accounts.

Yes, I do believe the government should start the Pay It Forward program because it helps student out who have no idea how they will pay for college by providing them with the needed cash.