

Testimony of Alfredo Guzman

Before the House Committee on Higher Education

February 25, 2013

RE: HB 2838

I am a seventeen year old Hispanic and a current senior at Roosevelt High School. My mother struggles to support all of us and has a hard time to keep a roof over our head. She wishes for me to continue my education after I graduate from high school so that I will hopefully get a good job to help our family and be a good role model for my younger siblings. My mother barely makes enough money. But she talks to me about taking out loans to be able to pay for college. But I want loans to be my last option because with school costs rising, it's going to be hard to pay. I don't want to be in debt forever.

If I get my degree, I will be able to work in an environment where I could help people like maybe as a nurse. If I only have a high school diploma I'm probably going to work at a low paying job and if I get my degree I will get paid more. Getting paid at a job that doesn't need more than a high school diploma I'm probably only going to be able to support myself. But if I get a degree I will contribute to this plan where I could donate to high school seniors who are thinking of going to college but are undecided because of how they would pay for it. I think the program Pay It Forward would motivate students to continue their education towards their dreams because it helps pay for students costs to attend college when scholarships aren't available for them and they don't want to take out loans and be in debt.