

Chairman Hass, Ladies and gentleman of the .....

If you would had asked me 4 years ago what would I be doing after high school I would have told you I'll b out somewhere in the Willamette valley doing some labor work. Today, a little bit more than two months before my high school graduation I can proudly tell you all that after high school. I will go on to become a Neurosurgeon.

Hi my name is Ayrton Nicolas I am 17 years of old and currently a senior at North Salem H.S. **GO VIKS**. Throughout my high school years I have always striven to great things, whether it was on the football or baseball fields, and even more in the classrooms, I have never settled for anything less than my best. My parents always reminded me that "hard work pays off" and to "seek great things in life" in which I don't have to wake up at 4 o'clock in the morning every morning or work 12 hour days only to barely make ends meet month after month. The hard work has definitely paid off, I have been accepted to multiple Universities around the state and nation and have been granted thousands of dollars in scholarships. Unfortunately, because of my legal status here in America, My Tuition cost is twice sometimes even three times more than that of my fellow classmates whom which I've studied along with, play with, and even volunteer with. This cost is the

only thing keeping me from chasing after my dreams, and I know they say to never let anyone take the pursuit of happiness away from you, but unfortunately in today's world it is money that dictates what we do with our lives. Today I stand in front you to plead you, to urge you to pass HB 2787 so that students like me who are striving towards a better life and thus creating a better nation, so it can help us to flourish and strive in our own personal pursuit of happiness.

HB 2787 will help students like me who have made an impact in their community and who have shown promise in the classroom to better not just themselves but enrich their communities with knowledge. The Motto of my school "Education Defends the State" talks for all those students who are like me. Without a further education we cannot contribute to this Great state, don't let the investment that you have made on us from K-12 grade die now, keep it going it will only benefit this state. As the ASB Vice president of student body, good Student Athlete I roomed the Hallways of North Salem HS proudly and proving that I can and Will be somebody. This bill is not just going to contribute to my personal success but to the success of many thousands of kids who want to get a better education who are class valedictorians, state champion athletes, but most importantly who have dreams of one day <sup>giving back to the community and friends</sup> ~~giving their family all the things that they could never have a~~

~~child.~~ *State of Oreg. that invest in their success*