From: "Bulau, Alexa L." <bula0580@stthomas.edu>
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Subject: Hearing about Concurrent Enrollment
To: "rep.bud.nornes@house.mn" <rep.bud.nornes@house.mn>, "sen.terri.bonoff@senate.mn" <sen.terri.bonoff@senate.mn>
Cc: "mrea@mnrea.org" <mrea@mnrea.org>

Dear Representative Bud Nornes and Senator Terri Bonoff,

First let me introduce myself. My name is Alexa Bulau and I am a law student at the University of St. Thomas. In fact, I am in my final year of law school and will graduate at the age of 24, at least a school year younger than my classmates. I would not be graduating from law school as early if it was not for the College-in-the-Schools (CIS) program I was involved in during my junior and senior year of high school.

In high school, I thought I wanted to be a lawyer, but I found the road daunting. Knowing that I not only need graduate undergrad, but also law school and find a way to pay for everything seemed like something that I would not be able to do. Luckily, I went to Eden Valley-Watkins, 35 minutes southwest of St. Cloud, where I not only had excellent teachers that pushed me to succeed, but I had the option of taking CIS. At the end of my senior year, I graduate high school with 38 credits. Those teachers and classes not only challenged me academically and helped me prepare for college in a way that I was farther along than most of my classmates, but they also allowed me to save over $30,000, graduate in three years from undergrad, and graduate with a major and two minors.

Without CIS, I would not have been able to attend St. Thomas University for undergrad. There really would be no financial option for me to do so. Yes, I received scholarships to attend, but saving myself that year of college was financially invaluable. I also would not have been able to diversify myself as much as I did in college. I graduated with two minors, German and Women’s Studies, to go along with my major in Political Science, and traveled abroad all in three years.

Throughout my experience in the CIS process, I have never doubted the abilities of my teachers. I do not think that it is necessary to require a masters to teach, instead, what is more important is passion. Teachers need to inspire their students to lean and succeed. A masters does not instill that in teachers. Instead it is their desire to see their students succeed. Please do not make it even harder for amazing teachers to do what they are best at.

Thank you for your time,

Alexa Bulau