

February 9, 2016

Chairman Highland, and members of the committee,

Thank you for allowing me to come and share my views as a proponent of Senate bill 388.

I believe that **SB388**, if passed, will make it possible for young men and women all across Kansas to receive college credit for general education courses in a more timely and fiscally responsible manner.

My Background With CLEP

Through CLEP testing I have been able to amass college credits more quickly and affordably than I would have been able to, had I chosen to only take “traditional” college courses. I started taking college level courses when I was sixteen years old. I had identified what I was passionate about and applied that passion in pursuing my bachelors degree. After only two years, I am now a senior in college, and am taking courses that are focused solely on my interests and passions.

I have been able to fill about half of my credit requirements by using CLEP tests and because of that I am debt free.

Taking CLEPs has helped me to get to the heart of what I want to study much more quickly than a traditional college outline could have.

The flexibility CLEP offers has made it easier for me to pursue higher education with purpose.

I stand before you today asking you to offer this opportunity to other college students.

Higher Education and Our Role

Higher education is costly and is becoming increasingly more expensive. CLEPs offer students an alternative to traditional college courses and has proven to be more affordable. With many students shunning the traditional “brick and mortar” path toward higher education it is time for Kansas to take steps to meet the new needs of our young people, and our time to act is now.

One of the major goals of higher education is to equip students with the knowledge and skills required to succeed in the workforce. CLEP tests allow students to bypass large amounts of time in a classroom learning lower level courses. These tests help make it possible for students who are motivated to experience a high level of productivity in their education without a large burden of debt.

Although CLEP is non-traditional, it offers young people yet another educational opportunity that I believe the committee should seriously consider. CLEP offers young Kansans an opportunity to pursue their education without the overhead of a traditional degree. The passage of this bill would encourage young people to not only start their path to higher education, but to finish it as well.

And with that, I will stand for questions Mr. Chair.

Thank you,

Janie Harris