

February 8, 2016

Chairman Abrams, 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. Two years later and I am a senior in college, and am taking courses that are focused solely on my interests and passions. CLEP testing made all the difference for me as when I started on my degree, and because of it’s inexpensive fee I am debt free.

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

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 have 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 know what they want to experience a high level of productivity in their education.

Although CLEP is non-traditional it offers young people yet another educational opportunity, that I believe the committee should seriously consider. CLEP offers young Kansan's 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.

Thank you,

Janie Harris