

Testimony for Public Hearing
Senate Appropriations Committee
SB 273
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Hello, my name is Monty Ratley. I am a former virtual student with Project Encore of South Central Kansas Education Center and am proud to announce, I graduated from the program in 2014.

I am writing to express my opposition to SB 273. I am opposing the elimination of virtual funding for anyone who is 18 years and older. Being a recent high school graduate, I would like to say how disappointed it is for me to learn of such cuts to virtual education.

If it wasn't for virtual programs, I don't think I would have been able to go back and earn my diploma. I had a full-time job and the flexibility this program provided allowed me to work my job and to work on my education. There are many older folks, who need the virtual programs in order to get a better education. For whatever reason people don't finish school, virtual education like Project Encore, give some the opportunity to better themselves. I'm very grateful for what Project Encore was able to do for me and my future. For this I will always be in debt to them. I can only hope other students of all ages; will have that chance I received to better their education. As citizens, it is important to receive the education we can to better our lives which will then better our society. .

Please consider funding virtual education and the opportunity it provides to help others so they too can benefit from having a diploma. Our state will surely come out on top, and be rewarded with better generations of working people, helping each other make a far more unique world with the education programs like Project Encore can provide.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation for your time. Thank you.