

Testimony for Public Hearing
Senate Appropriations Committee
SB 273
March 10, 2015

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Hello, my name is Shadonna Reedy. I am a virtual student with Project Encore of South Central Kansas Education Center.

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. I will be completing my high school education this spring. Without a virtual program like Project Encore, I would not be considering attending college to further my education as a computer programmer. Project Encore has been an opportunity for me to gain knowledge, have faith in myself, better myself as a person and most importantly to let my children be proud of me.

At an early age, I was put into state custody and was shuffled from foster home to foster home. This meant I was enrolled with many different schools. For me, education was always a struggle. Moving from school to school meant making new friends, learning different things in different schools, even having to adapt to new teachers each time. At sixteen, I was finally adopted and my adopted mother decided to change my first name. Well needless to say, I struggled with my own identity, which turned out to be too much to handle and caused me to give up on school and eventually drop out. A few years passed and I started having a family of my own. I always wondered how I would be able to show my kids their education was important. But how was I to do that without having mine. Well I started getting depressed and giving up on life. I couldn't find work because of the lack of my diploma, and so I felt I was going nowhere. Then I was introduced to Project Encore, a virtual school for adults. I was a single mother at the time and times were tough. When I learned there was no cost, I got excited and immediately filled out my enrollment form. I have worked hard ever since and as I stated before, I will be receiving my diploma at Project Encore's graduation ceremony in May. Without this virtual program, my life would have gone in a completely opposite direction. Project Encore has saved my life and my children's. It has given my family the blessing of knowing anything is possible.

Please support funding virtual programs to help others like me, who may have not had an ideal childhood. Project Encore has been a miracle. Without it I would not be the woman or mother I am today.

Thank you for your time and consideration.