

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

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Hello, my name Veronica Lee. I am a virtual student with Project Encore of South Central Kansas Education Center. I have been involved with Project Encore for almost a year.

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.

Working online is what I like best about being a part of Project Encore. I never used to enjoy school. I dropped out of high school when I was 16. I never really thought about going back to school until I heard of Project Encore. I figured I would hate it too. But I came in for the first time and I was impressed with what Project Encore could do for me. So far I have finished five courses and earned 2 1/2 credits towards my diploma. I have never had this much self-respect for myself. Project Encore has given me a chance to both earn my diploma and build my self-worth. Without this virtual program I would still be sitting around thinking and wishing I had stayed in school. It was obvious my life wasn't going to change because I didn't finish school when I should have. I am now able to look forward to following my dreams of becoming a case manager. I want to go to college and make something of myself. I don't want to have to work fast food restaurants the rest of my life.

I used to say to myself that I don't care what happens to my life but now because of Project Encore, I can see a better future for my life knowing I have accomplished something and making myself and others proud.

Thank you for your time and please don't take away the funding for virtual learning and the hope it provides for me and others.