

Dear Kathy Holster

I am writing this letter today to express my views on HB 2403 and SB 273. I am here to give you my support of virtual learning programs and share my views on them . Having participated in such programs I would like to explain my point of view. Programs like New Directions are very important to the population of our state for the fact it helps enhance the lives of men and women who have yet to receive their Hs Diploma!

From what I understand HB 2403 and SB 273 are working against such programs and will hurt a certain percentage of the population that is very vulnerable ! People like myself who have not received their diploma or who have gone through this issue know how critical it is to the very survival of our lives. Without programs like NDLA I feel we are being excluded from a very important part of life that will lead to many struggles! We all know that life without a High school diploma will surely limit job prospects and in many cases will lead to poverty. The ability to attend NDLA is truly life changing , these programs give us a fighting chance , a chance to redeem ourselves !

My experience at NDLA was a great one at that. The teachers there are very supportive towards their students and truly care for each person that walks through the door! I have noticed the mindset of these teachers are very different from any teacher I knew in high school.

They are shepherds to a forgotten people ! What I have seen with my own eyes is amazing, the teachers are willing to go out of their way to push their students to excel in their studies. Not only are they teachers , but they are also counselors that are willing to help guide a way to whatever field of study you wish to approach in the future! Whether it is trade school or a college degree. My feelings are if you do end up limiting the success of such programs you in turn will surely limit the progress of people that live in this very state. These programs are essential to people who are willing and want to improve their lives !

Help fight for these people, help us fight against the struggles that will come if we don't receive our diplomas. The greatest way to help us do this is by giving us the option to help ourselves ! Teach these men to fish rather than letting them reach a position that will in many cases rely on you giving them fish (welfare). People do wish to improve their situations and it is important to give them the outlet to do so.

Thank You

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