

My name is Danielle Smith and I am giving my written testimony. I am a student at New Directions Learning Academy for the 2014-15 school year and I am against the proposed bill. I dropped out of highschool at the age of 18, due to many reasons much having to do with health. others not so much. I found out about NDLA when I was about 19 or 20 and finally put myself forward this year because I want something better for myself. I feel that programs like NDLA are beneficial because they allow a person who hasn't been in school for a long time to relearn things they knew and learn things they had no idea about. They allow us to retain information easier as opposed to trying out for a GED and having cram all things in your brain at one time to take a high stress test that then determines if you get your GED or come back to do it all over again. I tried it with the practice test, sitting for 7 hours is NOT realistic for me. After I left that classroom I could barely walk the next two days due to my disabilities as well as only having 10 minute breaks and a 30 minute lunch break. NDLA also puts me in constant contact with teachers to answer my questions when I need them to, as well receiving the help and motivation I need to keep moving forward toward my graduating Having teachers that want to help adults achieve getting a diploma and actually getting to walk if they chose to do so is amazing, and very much a blessing. It is allowing those of us to have a chance to make our lives better and gives us a second chance. Education is important, and I regret dropping out of school when I did, but I am beyond thankful for this second chance and I hope everyone involved really thinks long and hard and puts themselves in the shoes of us, because losing everything I have already worked so hard for would just be crushing. Remember If you were in our shoes, Would you want someone to take your education and hard work away? I would hope the answer is no. Thank you for listening to what I have to say.

Danielle I. Smith
New Directions Learning Academy Student.
dannies101887@gmail.com