

In regards to Bills (HB 2403 and SB 273)

March 8, 2014

My name is Lori Caldwell. I have been administrative assistant for New Directions Learning Academy for ten years. We have offered virtual access to adult students wanting to earn their high school diploma for just a few years now, but our adult diploma completion program has been offering services in Topeka for 19 school years.

A new bill is being considered on Monday that would eliminate funding for all adult, virtual students in Kansas.

I am a proponent for keeping the virtual schools online and available for all students, regardless of age.

We are on track to reach 1,000 graduates in these 19 years of service to the Topeka, Kansas community. There are 1,000's more adults in Topeka who still need a high school diploma. More adult students have found success fitting classes into their schedules by working virtually. Enrollment and graduation numbers have increased with 21st century learning.

Imagine the struggles a single parent has providing for their family with a job that doesn't require a high school diploma. Those jobs are hard to come by today and harder to keep while tending to family needs.

Now, imagine that you can help!

I am writing today on behalf of our students and the students of programs like ours across the state.

Please help adult education keep moving forward instead of backward!

Do not pass this bill to eliminate funding for adult, virtual students!

Please accept my written testimony,

Lori Caldwell

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