Karina Macias Leyva 29 North Thorpe Street Kansas City, KS 66102

February 22, 2015

825 Kansas Ave, Suite 502 Topeka, KS 66102

Dear House Education Committee Members,

My name is Karina Macias Leyva. I am proud to say that I will be an alumni from Wyandotte High School, but the problem is that I am an undocumented/ DACA student. I have grown up and been educated in the United States, with the dreams and aspirations of other young Americans for the past sixteen years. I entered the country when I was two years old with my family. My parents view the United States as the land of opportunities, in which we considered to having a better life then our Country (Mexico).

I have many dreams I want to accomplish and one important dream is to obtain a higher level of education. I want to attend Johnson County Community College for my drafting and design degree. I will then transfer to the University of Kansas to further my education in the field of architecture. My education is very important because it will be a step closer to what I want to become, an architect. But the only thing that is holding me back from accomplishing my dream is the fact that I have to pay out of state tuition. With hard work I can probably afford the in-state tuition rate, but five times that much for out-of-state tuition is beyond reach. I won't be able to afford college, especially when I do not qualify for FAFSA and some scholarships.

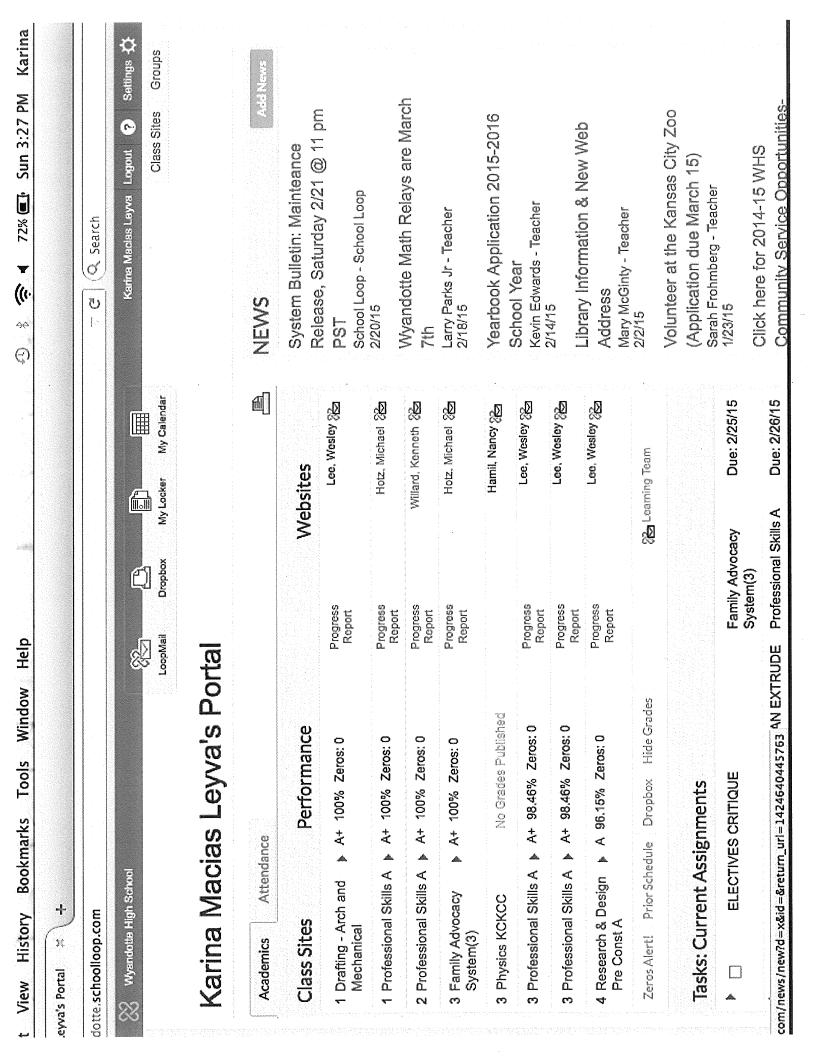
I believe that young children like me, should not be deprived of higher education because of their parent's choices. We shall all not be divided based from our status, but because of how much we accomplish from our academic background. We face tremendous social, financial, and legal barriers. Many undocumented students live below the poverty line. Now we ask how can we afford college with no support at all? We all, including me face intractable challenges while wanting to pursue a higher education. I've heard from other students that undocumented students are taking away other student's opportunities. But in reality I don't think I'm stealing anything. I am just making my own path and fighting for my very own opportunities because I believe in knowledge, the more a person knows, the more powerful that person is. And I believe that I can become that person. Anyone can do a job, but only a successful person will take time to learn more. Someday I hope to make a difference in my community and to be remembered as a knowledgeable person, whom people would look up to.

My education is my first priority in life! Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Yuin Minn

Karina Macias Leyva





Wyandotte H.S. Class of 2015.



Preparing
myself to
attend the
University of
Kansas in
the Fall of
2017.