

Highland
Chairman ~~Abrams~~ and Education Committee,

17 MARCH 2015

Thank you for the opportunity to share my experience as a homeschool student that was able to participate in public school activities. I grew up in Loveland Colorado and my parents decided to homeschool beginning in first grade. I continued to homeschool through my senior year of high school. It was an amazing blessing being homeschooled. I learned the value of time management and being task oriented that served me well during my college years. I finished my career at K-State with a cumulative 3.2 GPA with a dual major in Business Finance and a minor in Leadership. I was on the Academic All Big XII teams all four years I contributed in college. In Colorado you are allowed to participate in the public high school athletically and also academically. I played basketball and football for Loveland High School. I was a four-year starter on the varsity basketball team with a couple career records. I was a three-year letterman in football and also had career marks in multiple categories. I also participated in the High School Orchestra program for one year. I competed and worked my way to second chair 1st Violin. These opportunities had a wonderful impact on me that enriched my homeschool education.

It was an honor to be able to contribute to the local school. In Colorado much like my experience in Kansas is that there is strong affinity among communities for their high schools and athletic teams. This was a blast to be able to play and represent our community on the field of competition. Being able to play sports taught me invaluable life lessons of hard work, teamwork, delayed gratification, and striving to be my best. I learned how to be a good winner and loser but not accept the latter. I learned about leadership and how to serve the best interest of the team ahead of myself. These lessons that sports provided are only available to many through the local high school. I developed relationships and got to make memories with my 'neighbors' that I wouldn't trade for the world. I got to play local T-Ball in first grade with the same guys I played football and basketball with my senior year. This bond and opportunity is something I took for granted until I realized not all states allow homeschoolers to participate in sports. Most young men and women will only have four years to have some of these opportunities. For the vast majority of students this is their only opportunity to learn these lessons through sport. I was blessed to have the opportunity to compete in college and continue my athletic education but this is the exception. Having the opportunity to be a part of the community and learn life lessons through sport changed and shaped my life and has made me who I am today. I hope and pray that parents and students would have the ability to choose what education situation is best of their family and be able to still be a part of their communities through sport.

Sincerely,

Collin D. Klein

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