

February 13, 2020

Senator Molly Baumgardner  
Chairperson, Education Committee  
Kansas State Capitol  
Room224-E  
Topeka, Ks  
*Via email*

Dear Senator Baumgardner,

My name is Braxton Moral and I write to you in support of SB 335. My position on this matter can not be of a more personal nature. I saw firsthand what a lack of federal financial eligibility does to a family of a dual enrollee. You see because of the ever changing landscape in K-12 education in Kansas and with the support of my local USD Superintendent (along with others like Dr. Watson, Governor Colyer and Governor Kelly) I was able to do something that has never been done before. I managed to graduate from Ulysses High School and Harvard University at the same time this past May. However sadly the lack of federal financial aid to dual enrollees is a real financial hurdle that many Kansas Students, whom are more than able to succeed academically, cannot overcome. This bill provides access to this type of students and gives them an advantage compared to others across the country. SB 335 essentially will minimize the negative effects of the "Federal Higher Education Act" which traditionally requires a high school diploma *before* any federal financial aid is available to a student.

My support of the bill comes from a need to provide others in Kansas an opportunity similar to mine. My education, while uniquely mine, has brought positive attention to Kansas k-12 education. Passage of a bill like SB335 would cement both Kansas education and Kansas students as leaders and innovators in k-12 education.

I close by appealing to yours and the committee's sense of pride in the students of Kansas. The KSDE and Dr. Watson have rightfully developed a vision for education, "Kansans Can". Let's provide the much needed financial support to the many dual enrollees in Kansas schools so they can also aspire to do extraordinary things while still being in k-12 schools right here in Kansas.

Respectfully,

Braxton Moral