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From: Mike Coons [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 11:57 AM
To: House Education
Cc: Rep. DeLena Johnson; Sen. Mike Shower; Sen. Shelley Hughes
Subject: HB 148 comments and concerns

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In reading HB 148 the standards for scholarship is not what any scholarships I have been involved with were. In the past, a 2.5 GPA got no help. Even a 3.0 GPA, one was on the bottom of the list as to other applicants for that scholarship.

We, the public have been hearing more and more of High School Graduates with 4.0 GPA's are having to take remedial Math and English courses at College because they aren't proficient in either one at even English 101 or Math 101 levels. Thus, if that reporting is even partially factual, as the GPA goes from 4.0 down to 2.5 the natural assumption would be, that the student will have even more of a rough time at college level. I know from personal experience I struggled to even pass English 101. I did complete English 102 only because of years learning to write on the job and learning from outstanding Executive Secretary's! My degree did not require a higher math requirement since my Pharmacy Course had the needed math instruction.

I do appreciate the Career and Technical schooling addition. Since so many young adults either have no idea what they want to do or being pushed into college, with no real idea on a major, if any and at best changing the major as time goes. I know if I had the opportunity to have gone to a career technical school upon graduating, I most likely would have looked at that. At that point in time, I was eligible to be drafted into the Army and going to Vietnam, yet, this is something I may well have looked at with no draft hanging over my head.

In my opinion the best scholarship is sweat equity. Those that join the military for at least 4 years, thus getting the GI Bill and by the end of the 4 years have matured and are better able to decide what they want to do as a career. Those that go into the workforce straight out of High School and start developing a work ethic then deciding what they want to do as a career is far superior to jumping from High School into something because they "think" that is what they want to do.

Thus I do like the time aspect in the bill so these adults can decide and then later apply for that scholarship, Section 5.

I would suggest that to make the ability to gain a scholarship, the requirements must have a high bar. I would like to see Section 4 change to (1) to be a 3.75 GPA or higher. (2) change 3.0 to 3.5 GPA. Delete (3) entirely. Then add language so that the applicant even if in High School they were below 3.5 GPA but can produce documentation from employers of solid work ethics, steady employment that the applicant has shown by hard work a willingness to put in the effort to get the additional education and career of their choosing. This would give kids like me who struggled in school and had no clue as to what they were doing or where they were going time to mature. This I believe will have the largest group actually completing the course of education vs a large dropping out we see in College. As an example, I received my AAS in Emergency Medicine/Paramedic at the age of 39 and graduated with a 3.87 GPA.

As this bill stands right now, I have a hard time supporting it. If a version that is close to my views could be done, I would be more in favor.

Mike Coons

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