

Testimony of Alexandra Schake on Behalf of Herself  
IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 17-1201  
SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING MATH DIPLOMA ENDORSEMENT  
Before the State House of Representatives, Education Committee  
March 15, 2017

Dear Madam Chair Petterson and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for letting me come and speak today in support of House Bill 17-1201. My name is Alex Schake. I am a 7th grader and I attend West Grand Middle School. I live in the small ranching community of Kremmling with my parents and two brothers. After high school I am interested in going to college and learning about animal science. I have always wanted to become a veterinarian or pursue another career that includes animals.

A STEM diploma endorsement will show colleges that I work really hard in school and have big goals. Also, the STEM endorsement will allow all of my hard work to go towards my dreams for my future instead of me working hard in high school to just relearn the same things in college. Becoming a veterinarian will take at least 8 years of college or more to be a licensed doctor. House Bill 17-1201 is important to me since I want to become a veterinarian and because a STEM endorsement on my diploma will help me greatly by getting me through college faster so that I will have less debt and I will be able to achieve my dream faster. After pursuing college, I want to work in a small town like the one I live in and have fallen in love with today.

The capstone project will allow high schools to assure colleges that students are ready to move on. If the STEM project was just based on test scores, colleges may not receive students who have a full understanding of a subject. The capstone project as well as working with people in the industry will not only assure colleges but better prepare me for the work force. I feel that the capstone project will give me an opportunity to show that I fully understand and can apply a subject matter.

Attending a rural school offers me different advantages than bigger schools would, but that doesn't stop me from having big dreams because where I live and the people I live around show me that if you have something you want to accomplish you never give up even if you have to be creative in the way you get things done. I know that having the option of a STEM diploma endorsement will push kids like me even further to achieve their goals by giving us something to work for.

Thank you so much, again, for your time and I hope that you would consider what an amazing opportunity this would be for me, and kids like me!

Sincerely,

Alex Schake