

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

Madam Chair Petterson and Members of the Committee,

Good Morning,

My name is Jesus Dominguez, and I am currently a seventh grader at West Grand Middle School. West Grand Middle School is located in Kremmling, Colorado about a two and a half hour drive from here in Denver. As a student athlete, school is my main priority and utmost passion. In the future, I plan to attend higher education to obtain a job in the business field as a wealth management advisor.

Before going to the work force I must first complete college which is a huge step to participating in the modern economy. A STEM diploma endorsement would be beneficial in informing colleges as to who I really am and what my strengths are, to then, hopefully, separate myself from all the other applicants. My strengths in work ethic, determination, and all around knowledge would be bestowed to colleges through being granted this diploma.

The pathway HB 17-1201 would create for me is important because my goals to work at math oriented jobs would not be as burdensome and the diploma endorsement would keep me motivated. In modern society, high competency standards are necessary to separate people from people since the youth of our country are only getting more intelligent.

Also, a "capstone project" is important because test scores only define how you work on a certain occasion, while a "capstone project" demonstrates who you are as a scholar. I know from past experience that tests can be difficult, not from the material in question but from something as simple as how a question may be worded.

Even though I am blessed with a wonderful principal who supplies all of my needs and a school system that treats me extremely well, some rural or small rural schools are not provided with the resources for the STEM diploma endorsement to be a possibility. A lack of resource means two things: 1.) my school has to get more creative in how it pushes me to excel and 2.) my school has to take a close examination in how it needs to step up its programming. This is a win-win situation for students like me.

I urge you to pass House Bill 17-1201.

Thank you for your valuable time.

Sincerely,

Jesus Dominguez