

Proponent Testimony of HB 2138
For the Senate Education Committee

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Chair Baumgardner and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony in support of House Bill 2138 on behalf of reimbursement for certifications to school districts.

Hello, I am Ingrid Gardea, a senior at Deerfield High School

Last year I received my CNA certification from Garden City Community College, I went to classes on campus every Wednesday and then had 2 weeks of clinicals. I started working as a CNA at a nursing home and would work weekends and afternoons while still being in school. This year I was able to do work based learning which allowed me to work 2 hours in the afternoon. This certification allowed me to step foot into the medical field early enough for me to figure out my future career. Working has allowed me to learn many new things and shadow other careers.

As I pursue a career in the medical field I can now work as a CNA as I attend classes to not incur as much debt while going to school. As a CNA I will be making more than minimum wage and working within the medical pathway. I would like to encourage the committee to support this bill so that other students can have experiences similar to mine while earning a certification to help them be more independent and successful no matter the cost once they graduate high school.

Thank you for your time.