

Lisa Cataldi

From: Lukowicz, Ryan <ryan_lukowicz@students.nksd.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 9:32 PM
To: House Education Committee
Subject: Fwd: Adaptive Classes at NKHS

Please see below from a friend regarding H7561 and please include with written testimony.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Alexa Hanrahan** <ahanrahan@uri.edu>
Date: Tue, Mar 12, 2024 at 9:06 PM
Subject: Adaptive Classes at NKHS
To: ryan_lukowicz@students.nksd.net <ryan_lukowicz@students.nksd.net>

To whom it may concern,

My name is Alexa Hanrahan, and I just graduated from North Kingstown High School last year. I am currently a freshman at the University of Rhode Island majoring in nursing.

I recently talked to my college classmates about how well our high schools prepared us for college. Yes, the AP classes I took helped me get ahead in my science knowledge and credits, but one class that distinctly stood out to me was my Peer Partner World Cultures class. This class allowed me and around 4-6 other students to work hands-on with students with disabilities and help them learn Spanish. We worked with students with Down syndrome, autism spectrum disorder, and others. I took this class in both semesters of my senior year, and I can not speak highly enough of how much it taught me. Working with students with disabilities is a gift. I learned so much from every student I had the opportunity to work with. It is seemingly impossible to explain just how much of an impact taking adaptive classes had on me. I would not trade my experience in that classroom for the world. I still enjoy volunteering where I can at URI working with this special population.

When Ryan reached out to me and shared his senior project, I was thrilled. I was never able to fit Adaptive Physical Education into my schedule, and I love that Ryan is working to get more people involved. These classes are so beneficial to all students in them, both the peers and the partners. From my experience, I have found that students with disabilities absolutely love these classes and look forward to them during their day. The students in these classes form great connections with each other, and I always enjoyed seeing the students with disabilities from my class in the hallways and all around school. I think that if credit can be offered, more and more students will get involved, making these adaptive classes even more beneficial to all of the students in the classes.

Ryan is incredibly inspiring, and I can not wait to see how he changes the world. I look up to him, and am so proud of him always, but especially proud of this amazing senior project he has created.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions, comments, concerns, etc.

Best,
Alexa Hanrahan
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