

Joy Jackson

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I was asked to write a testimony on how/why it would affect me if my CICS funding was cut. I didn't even know where to start, because for someone like me -with a twin sister also in school- any fewer funds available would mean immediate financial strain. My sister and I receive the maximum financial aid we are eligible for at the University of Bridgeport, and if it weren't for that aid we would not be able to attend school at all. However, after all the aid is applied to my tuition, even with a 3.2 GPA, I still have a bill each semester of almost \$4000. This might as well be a million because jobs are in rare form in recent times for me, and money is very hard to earn let alone spend. In order for me to become a contributing member of society, I would need to attain a degree. In the next two years, my plan is to do just that.

My goal is to become a teacher and help to educate, empower, and uplift Bridgeport's youth who are in the same -if not worse- situation financially as me. Yet these proposed cuts from those in office (that should have the same goal for the youth as I) would not only disable my plans but the plans of those who I later would teach. The same youth who already have a grim outlook on life and have a tendency to give up on their futures. As we all have witnessed in the streets, read in the papers, and seen in the news. How can we who could possibly make a difference in their lives find the tenacity to do so if doors are closing for us as well? So, when you are finalizing these decisions, I beg you; consider the youth who need this the most and aspirations like mine to help change the tide.