

Good afternoon member of the Higher Education Committee

My Name is Hafid Dumet and I am not a felon, I am not a criminal, I am undocumented, student American.

I am a SENIOR and part-time student at WCSU.

It wasn't until my senior year in high school that I learned to be an undocumented student – a person who did not have the proper documents to live in the States but had the same values, aspirations, and plans as my classmates did who aspired to find a purpose to live in this, OUR world - but my life turned into a nightmare once my counselor informed me during our post high school graduation planning meetings that I could not attend college because I would not qualify to be accepted into a college here. (I do not want to blame this on my counselor because my counselor was unaware of students like myself back in my school)

After, she mentioned this several times; my life was a constant battle in regards of my future. I found myself demoralized because the plans that I had since I was child – whether I wanted to become a lawyer, or an accountant, or a leader in my community– did not seem a possibility in the near future or at least I thought in this life. I began to question where all these plans could fit in my life if my parents raised me to become someone successful.

I took a year off but I was determine to not give up regardless, I went back to my former high school counselor's office and ask her that I was going to apply regardless. She was happy and she happily helped me in the application process. Fortunately, I was accepted to all the schools I applied to and even received a few grants and scholarships from the private colleges. However they all did not offered

me enough money, so I ended up choosing Westconn, for the quality of professors, diverse university environment, quality of education programs and affordability. In spite of the latter, it was still costly for me to pay out of pockets. Due to my status, I only qualified for the Out-State Rate which is three times more than the in state rate which a CT - resident would normally pay. I had the choice to enroll as a part-time student since the Fall of 2006. Fortunately, I have been able to afford financially these five years, thanks to the generous support of my family, local organizations through private scholarships, and working as many hours as possible to meet the required payments each semester. While, I have one semester left at Westconn, and taking me six years to be almost done with a degree on Accounting, without the affordability of the state schools, nothing of this would have been a reality. by approving the In-state-tuition many of my fellow students who are still striving to conclude with their undergraduate degree could have a more affordable education here in Connecticut, if requirement are met. Legislators, I thank you for your time. And I ask you to consider this bill, to be a part of the change that this country needs to see, "A more accessible education for everyone" and I would like to leave you as one of my professors at WCSU would say, Dr. Kukk "I like to work with people who make excuses to make things a reality" Thank you.