



Dear Council Members,

My name is Steven Russo. I live in Hebron with my mother and brother and sister. I am a sophomore at Rham High School. I participate in wrestling and Lacrosse. Today I am here to testify on House/Senate Bill 5120, An Act Concerning Postsecondary Tuition Assistance and Special Need Subsidies for Adopted Children. I'm here to support that bill. If this bill is passed it will give me, my siblings and other kids the same educational opportunities other adopted children get. Our adoption became official in April of 2004. The college tuition assistance was approved several months later and kids only adopted after December 2004 would get the tuition help. We missed that date by eight months and are considered ineligible for it. My plan is to go in to the law enforcement field. I have been inspired by my mother, who is currently a Parole Officer and has been involved with law enforcement for the past sixteen years. It would mean the world to me if this bill is passed because I would like to be one of the first people in my biological family to graduate and to break the long pattern of failure. I will not fail nor let my brother or sister fail and follow into our parent's footsteps. Lastly, I thank the Committee Chairs and Members of the Committee for the opportunity for me and my family to testify before you today.