

Good Afternoon,

Thank you Chair Marquart and members of the committee for hearing this bill. I'm writing to share my support of HF3072.

I began my college career in 2013 at University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire. I graduated in 2017 with a degree in Social Work. Throughout my college career I took many steps, to relieve as much future burden of student loans as possible. I even had the privilege of my parent's paying for 50% of my college. Starting freshman year I worked an on-campus job. Throughout the summer between freshman and sophomore year I lived at home to save money and worked more than full-time as a nanny and PCA (Personal Care Assistant). During junior and senior year I worked two, sometimes three jobs and managed to even pay off some student loans while still in school. After a senior semester internship with MN DHS, I graduated and immediately accepted a paid staff position.

Despite having my parents pay for 50% of my college, despite working multiple jobs, despite getting hired to work for the State immediately after graduating college, even despite paying more than the minimum (this includes throughout the entire pandemic and the interest rate pauses) I am still over \$20,000 in debt. I do not have credit cards, I do not have a car payment, and I live with 2 roommates just so I can afford housing. If I received a tax credit or other student debt relief, I'd finally be able to save money to buy a house and be able to attend medical appointments not covered by insurance.

I have done everything 'correct' and will still be paying my student loans for years to come.

Thank you again for your time.

Clancy Ferris