

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and Members of the Educational and Cultural Affairs Committee

RE: LD 2166 An Act to Establish a Grant Program to Increase Postsecondary Educational Opportunities for Students with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities or Autism Spectrum Disorder

My name is Sami Woodcock I live in Saco, I am 16-years-old and a sophomore at Thornton Academy. I am submitting this testimony in support of L.D. 2166

When I grow up I want to be a Police Officer because they help people and I like helping people. First, I need to graduate from High School with my friends. My graduation year is 2026. After I graduate from High School I want to go to UNE. I want to live in the dorms with my friends and I want to go to classes. I do not want my mom to come to college with me, I want to be independent.

When I graduate from college, I want to get a job so I can have my own money. I want to live in Biddeford in an apartment.

I have Down Syndrome. Sometimes because of my Down Syndrome things are harder for me. It can be harder for me to be independent but that does not mean I should not try. I just need to be given the chance to try. My Down Syndrome does not stop me from riding horses, skiing, dance recitals, hip-hop class, swimming, basketball, being a member of student council, and my favorite being a member of the UNE Woman's Hockey team. At school I am taking regular education English, History, Math, and Everyday Engineering classes. I am very busy practicing being Independent.

Thank you for listening to me today and please support LD 2166 so I can go to college like my friends.

Thank you for your consideration.  
Sami Woodcock