

AVID Testimony

Good Morning Chair Hudson, Vice-Chairs Fragala and Harbick, and Members of the House Higher Education Committee. My name is Sianna Voight, I am a senior; and this is my 4th year of AVID. I am an AVID Tutor, and a previous AVID ambassador for the AVID showcase last year which renewed South Albany High School as a National Demonstration school. You should pass bill 2997 to help fund AVID and other similar programs because they are an instrument of success in our youth.

AVID has benefited me not only in my academic life but in my personal and professional life as well. By building my confidence AVID has fostered my ability to seek out my goals by creating resumes and acquiring recommendation letters to prepare me for college. In AVID we use WICOR (which stands for Writing; inquiry; collaboration; organization and Reading), to advance our learning. I use writing in the form of focus notes to develop my understanding of the material I am learning. I take focused notes almost everyday, and they have helped me achieve the highest score for multiple tests including the free response section of my final in my AP Biology class. These skills have been implemented into other classrooms besides the AVID Elective class which has helped students create positive revision techniques.

AVID is a family as your peers and teacher remain the same for all four years of school. As a family we can rely on our peers for constructive criticism, support, and help in every challenge we face. The most challenging part about AVID is the repetition of tutorials. However, nothing good ever comes from only doing something once. Practicing collaboration, public speaking, and problem solving during the tutorial process develops the skills we need for our future success. AVID has allowed me to shape my own future by touring colleges and doing assignments to figure out what I want to do in my post high school education and career. I have applied to 5 colleges and been accepted to all of them; and have, in total, been offered over \$90k in scholarships, and I believe this comes from the determination and confidence I have gained from AVID. AVID is important because

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it gives young people guidance and allows them to develop the skills necessary to perform jobs like you hold today. Thank you for the opportunity to speak on Bill 2997 and represent AVID students.