

Submitter: Andrew Perrine

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB979

Hey everyone:

I write to you from a rather privileged position, where I am a disabled student, and feel the barriers my brain imposes upon me that others just slide on by, but where I have talented and dedicated instructors encouraging my support to make sure I can achieve my full potential. And that's a thing everyone stands to benefit from: my field of study, Addiction Counseling, badly needs more people, especially ones with disabilities who understand the challenges faced by our fellow disabled people, many of whom end up in the grip of addictions. And by having their support, rather than struggling to just keep my head above water, I can do my best to excel--and because I'm able to excel, that's going to pay dividends in both my personal success, and the social environment I'm going to be helping towards--because I could really take in the expertise in my classes, and become my best self.

This is really what our society is based around, right? The idea that everyone deserves a shot at success, at being able to improve themselves and work to achieve their best--and that we can make the environment to help make this happen. And well, it's pretty clear: When you look at it, supporting people in their education helps people live up to that standard, lets them achieve their best, and the more we can find ways to let that happen across the state, the better a place this state will be to live in, and likely the better off everyone will be--if anything, I've got enough work on my plate; measures like this, letting disabled people live up to their potential, make a decent life for themselves, keep them safe and stable without the need to turn to substances? An ounce of prevention will prevent a pound of cure.

Best,
--Andy Perrine