

## Testimony of Samantha Burke, Wells, Vermont – April 2019

Hello, my name is Samantha Burke. I am in tenth grade. I attend Granville High School in New York, but I am from Vermont. I live in Wells, a town that just borders the New York state line. I had the choice of schools: private, which my parents could not afford, or public. I had the choice of public schools Poultney or Granville. My parents sent my sisters and me to Granville. Their reason was simple: “more options.” It is why I have today to talk to you. It’s all about more opportunities. That is why I applied to the Upward Bound program. It gives families that don’t have the financial income more opportunities.

Castleton University Upward Bound gives students like me, from families like mine the opportunity that wouldn’t be available any other way. When I say families like mine I mean financially challenged and where neither parent has a college degree. My mom is a dairy farmer and my dad is a furniture production worker. We are not by any means rich.

I really believe that I should have the right to accessing college courses through dual enrollment, it can help me and others with the same family financial struggles, during their high school years. It is so important to get ahead and ready for college. It is also completely unfair that my parents pay taxes for Vermont and I can’t get the benefits that I need, while others do. My family cannot pay for college courses while I am in high school, they are already paying too much for my sisters and I. I am depending on dual enrollment to help me get into college. As I said, in the beginning, my parents chose Granville because it gave me and my sisters more options. If my parents would have been told that the dual enrollment would have been taken away from New York students that live in Vermont I might not been able to get the college courses that I need, I would have to either find resources that could pay for them or just not go.

## Testimony of Samantha Burke, Wells, Vermont – April 2019

I want to go into the medical field I want to help those people who need it. If you take this away I may not accomplish my dreams, but even worse I may have to move to another state maybe New York where education in the medical field is free. Don't keep making the mistake of forcing the younger people out of this state. I love VT, but doing this to your own students makes me feel like you don't love us!