

Eva Stumpff  
Montpelier High School Student  
College Affordability Testimony  
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Hello, my name is Eva Stumpff, I am a freshman at Montpelier High school and I support free in state tuition in Vermont. If bill S.231 is passed, free tuition will be funded by an income tax system. This is a reason why Vermonters wouldn't support this bill because they think their taxes are too high already, my family included. However I believe that if tuition were free more people would have better jobs so they could afford high taxes. I think another reason why we have high taxes here is because of our small population. Having high college tuition rates doesn't exactly make want people to move here either. In a survey of our fellow students, 53% said they could only afford college with financial aid and Vermont ranks last in the country for state funding per student, so it makes sense that more and more young people are moving out of Vermont. Making state college tuition free would ultimately attract more young families to move here and provide better jobs for Vermonters who receive a college degree. People would also be able to save more money because they wouldn't be saving it for college tuition. This would make taxes more affordable for Vermonters. I think making tuition free would positively affect Vermont's economy and population over all.

When my friends and I talk about our futures, we always talk about getting out of Vermont. In our survey only 8% of students said they were currently planning on going to college in state. This could be for many reasons but I know that many young people feel they have no opportunities here and it's too expensive. 76% of people surveyed said they would be more likely to go to college in Vermont if it was tuition free. Vermont is a wonderful place to grow up and unfortunately less and less people are deciding to raise their children here. Tuition free

college would attract more people to move here and go to college here. This bill would most greatly affect high school students and lower income families. If we want change in Vermont we should start by giving free tuition so more people have the opportunity to make change. Thank you for your time.