

Nasser Abdel-Fatah

S.38 Testimony

Feb 15, 2019

My name is Nasser Abdel-Fatah and I am a graduate of Johnson State College with a degree in Environmental Studies and a double minor in Chemistry and Wellness and Alternative Medicine. Coming from Randolph, VT and graduating from Randolph Union High School; Johnson State College was the best option for me in terms of affordability to other colleges. Even with the lower cost I still had to take loans to stay in school. The bulk of my undergraduate student loans are from my first year at college. The following years due to the dedication from faculty at JSC I was able to be one of the first START Scholars funding me 40,000\$ over the course of my stay at JSC.

With the worry of paying for college done, I was able to get involved. I served on the Student Government being the President for two years and worked with Student Trustees on the Vermont State College Student Association to help improve student life across the VSC campuses. I also got involved in programs on campus life from being an orientation leader to mentoring students in the dorms.

From my time in doing this, I have heard and seen amazing people, from dedicated faculty and staff to the vast majority of students. I've worked with a non-traditional student who took the 10-year plan of college from start to finish, I've seen a single dad raise three kids and take on a full science base course load. Knowing that these backgrounds and experiences are important I feel that S.38 should expand to part-time student funding and should not be entitled to only full-time students.

I can also testify to the good work that Johnson creates. There are students across the state in the field of environmental science, consulting, running experiments, teaching the good work, and being stewards of the environment we live in.

My time at Johnson State College led me to get my Masters Degree at Vermont Law School in Environmental Law and Policy. I know work for a local business called Filabot working towards a solution on recycling plastics for 3D printing extrusion. All, four, employees are all graduates from the Vermont State Colleges.

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