

My name is Abraham Musty. I grew up in Bradford where my mom is a massage therapist and my dad has his own auto restoration business. I now live in Corinth Vermont. I first knew that I wanted to ski race when I was a second-year U10, I was 9 years old. I had just gotten my first pair of race skis, and it was the most fun I had in any sport I had ever played. Moving up in age, I had to purchase more gear and skiing started to get more expensive. To contribute to the expenses, I started mowing lawns and returning bottles to save money.

As a 12-year-old I had an idea to power a cotton candy machine with an alternator attached to a bike. I went to parades and festivals that summer then saved up enough money to take a trip to Colorado with my team that November.

Once I became a U14 it became expensive enough that my parents couldn't afford it all by themselves so I started to pay $\frac{1}{3}$ of the cost of my program and equipment. In addition to that, they had to drive me to the ski mountain every day for training. I'm thankful that my parents own their businesses and have the flexibility to transport me. Between them and my grandparents, my family has joined in to support me during my elementary school and middle school training.

I now go to Burke Mountain Academy. I love it there and I feel I'm making huge improvements as a person and as an athlete. This school is my dream and the \$17,750 that Corinth sends with me is essential for me to be able to go to BMA.

I have never written a letter to elected leaders before, but my Aunt served in the Vermont House of Representatives for many years, and she told me this is the way citizens can get their voices heard. I wanted to share my story because being able to take school choice tuition funds to Burke Mountain Academy is the only way a kid like me would be able to follow my dreams. I've worked hard for the place I earned at BMA. I love skiing, and I want to continue. This is my Freshman year. I just got my learner's permit, and I just got back from Mission Ridge, Washington, where I was one of 17 men representing the East in the U16 National Championship. If this bill passes as it is, I will no longer be able to afford to go to Burke. I hope you can find a different solution.

<https://www.nastar.com/news/spinning-cotton-candy-colorado>