The District of Columbia College Access Act of 1999 (P.L. 106-98), as amended, established a tuition assistance program, providing DC high school graduates with tuition assistance to take advantage of higher education resources in the surrounding region and throughout the country. This legislation authorized funding for the program for five years, from Fiscal Year 2000 through Fiscal Year 2005.

This program has a direct impact on DC high school graduates. Many students are first in their families to attend college: **Rutgers University, Frostburg State, Temple University, Penn State University, Hampton University, Johnson C. Smith University, North Carolina Central University, University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill), North Carolina A & T State University, Fayetteville State University, University of Alabama, Ball State University, Edward Waters College, Kentucky State University, University of Cincinnati, Lincoln University (PA and MO), Columbia University, University of Delaware, Voorhees College, Virginia State University, Norfolk State University, Winston-Salem State University, University of Maryland College Park, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, American University, Georgetown University, Howard University, and George Washington. The list goes on and on.**

I am an advocate for all students and parents, particularly from Washington Mathematics Science Technology Public Charter High School, H. D. Woodson Senior High School, and Washington Tennis & Education Foundation, Center For Excellence.

Many of our students have been accepted to Yale, Harvard, Princeton, Dartmouth, Tufts, and Stanford; however, this funding does not apply.

Chairman Davis, your committee must review future costs of attending state grant institutions, historically black colleges/universities, and local colleges/universities within the DC metropolitan area. All future students have the right to share this process.

In closing, students seated in this Chamber have already been accepted to colleges throughout the country; most have received their official award notification of eligibility for a District of Columbia Tuition Assistance Grant (DCTAG) for the 2004-2005 school year. In addition, a student who received his award from last year is also present; he's attending University of Alabama at Birmingham.

LET ME ALSO ADD THIS:

Thank you.

Testimony Given: Thursday, March 25, 2004 10:00 am
Anthony Talley, Director of Guidance & Counseling
Washington Mathematics Science Technology Public Charter High School
Washington, DC
Washington Tennis & Education Foundation
Center For Excellence, College Counselor