Proponent Testimony of HB 2138 For the Senate Education Committee

March 8, 2023 Audrey Musil High School Senior, Deerfield USD 216

Chair Baumgardner and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony in support of House Bill 2138 on behalf of reimbursement for certifications to school districts.

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Hello, I am Audrey Musil, a senior at Deerfield High School.

Last year I received my Early Childhood Certificate from Garden City Community College, this year I also took and passed the Parapro Test. This test was paid for by my school district to help me get more experience before I become a teacher. With my certificate I am able to work two hours in the afternoon at the elementary school. These two certifications will help me complete my teaching degree with less debt because I will be able to have better paying jobs while I am going to college. They will also help me work in a variety of roles in education so that when I am done I have a better idea of the age group and type of school setting I want to work in. I would like to encourage the committee to support this bill so that other students can have the great experiences I am having with the certifications without having to consider the financial burden of receiving them.

Thank you for your time.