

Monday, March 16, 2020

Stanley & Jacqueline Wine – K.I.D.S Matching Grant Recipients

Written testimony in support of S.B. 473

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Committee,

Most parents want the world for their kids and we're no different. We want our kids to do better than we did. Often, kids are so much smarter than we give them credit for. Our children are our future and, given the chance, they can do things that make a difference and change the world.

When our son Bradley was in middle school and son Patrick was in elementary school we opened Learning Quest 529 accounts. Those accounts have benefited us greatly.

Jacqueline and I always stressed the importance of education. We enrolled our kids in magnet schools growing up that best suited their personalities and interests. When they showed a passion for something, we helped them explore it. I remember giving Patrick a hand-held camcorder and it changed his life. He was always behind that thing making movies around the neighborhood with his friends. Fast-forward to today – he's currently making an amazing film with an Emmy award winning actor. Life is too short not to pursue your passion.

A few years ago, our family hit a rough patch when we were between careers. The bright spot was we qualified to receive a matching grant from Learning Quest for the boys' college savings funds. We could contribute up to \$600 annually and they would match it. I couldn't believe it. We jumped at the opportunity and scraped together the money to put \$600 in each son's account. It was the easiest and quickest return on our investment -- \$1,200 added total.

We eventually got back on our feet, so our family no longer qualified for the grant. Yet I will always be grateful for it. Just because we couldn't financially save much during tough times, it didn't mean education was any less important to us.

Ironically, Bradley who pursued a medical degree ended up saving my life. I had a heart attack in the middle of the night when he was home on break. Because of his schooling, he knew how to do chest compressions until the ambulance arrived. Doctors told us I had a half percent chance of surviving and I was alive because of Bradley's efforts. I'm proud of him for going to med school, but I'll also be forever grateful. I believe the future is bright for Bradley and Patrick, and for their generation.

As parents, we are tremendously thankful for the KIDS Matching Grant program. We knew we couldn't completely finance our kids going to college, but the financial challenge of higher education seemed more attainable with the assistance provided by the State of Kansas. Many families can greatly benefit from the grants provided and any effort to enhance this impactful program deserves strong consideration. The Wine family encourages you to pass S.B. 473 and we thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony.

Sincerely,

Stanley & Jacqueline Wine