

Testimony from Khalique Rogers on Service-Learning

Service learning as an educational approach combines impactful community service with instruction and reflection. Enhancing the learning experience while teaching civic responsibility and strengthening local communities. Research has consistently shown that students participating in service learning have increased by Professor Andrew Furco, University of Minnesota, shows the major positive impact of service-learning on academic achievement and personal growth. This one page research summary is included with the packet of materials for this hearing.

These service-learning grants have and would allow schools to tailor their service learning programs to meet the unique needs of their respective communities. Each school can design initiatives that not only benefit their students but also have an impact on the community at large. Furthermore, service learning also encourages collaboration between schools, local organizations, and stakeholders, encouraging partnerships to expand community activity. These collaborations build social networks and resources that benefit everyone involved, and specifically the students. Creating vibrant interconnected communities.

Putting aside the academic and social benefits that service-learning instills in young people, it also develops crucial life skills like leadership, communication and problem solving. All essential skills for students as they prepare to not just enter the higher education space if they choose to pursue, not just the workforce, but life generally.

Serving learning allows students to contribute meaningful projects that they can see firsthand impact their community. These grants are an investment in cultivating a generation of young leaders, ready to tackle the challenges of tomorrow, and improve their community. I urge the committee to consider the positive effects service learning grants would have on our schools and communities. Investing in service learning is the first step to investing in our kids and future.