

KEITH ELLISON
5TH DISTRICT, MINNESOTA



1122 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4755
FAX: (202) 225-4886

FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
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2100 PLYMOUTH AVENUE NORTH
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55411
(612) 522-1212
FAX: (612) 522-9915

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ellison.house.gov

December 15, 2010

Ms. Bernadeia Johnson
Superintendent
Minneapolis Public Schools
807 Broadway Avenue NE, Room 109
Minneapolis, MN 55413

Superintendent Johnson:

I have been contacted by five constituents of mine, all students at Broadway High School, regarding the loss of credits they have earned. I have enclosed signed privacy authorization forms and other documents regarding their situation for your review.

The students who contacted me shared that they were recently notified that some of the credits they earned have been rescinded. They stated that they were told the classes were taught by instructors who were not properly licensed to teach those courses. The students report that they were told they must enroll, attend and pass those courses again if they would like to graduate. The students each told me the number credits they have earned and the number of courses they lost due to this situation. One student stated that she had 48 credits and now has 29 credits, another told me she had 56.5 credits and now has 42 credits.

The students who contacted me are all mothers who are earning their high school diplomas. The loss of these credits, in some cases, will result in up to two additional years of classes. They stated that this is a significant burden as they simultaneously work toward earning diplomas, raise their children and financially support their households. These students are requesting a waiver that allows them to keep all credits they have earned.

These students stated that they are frustrated by this situation. They report that they were not told who made the decision to rescind their credits, any right to appeal the decision or if the credits were rescinded due to unlicensed teachers or if key components of required curriculum were taught to them by the unlicensed teachers.

Letter to Ms. Bernadeia Johnson
Minneapolis Public Schools
December 15, 2010

I would appreciate it if you would review my constituents' situation. Please direct your response, any questions and requests for additional information to Mike Siebenaler, a member of my staff, at my Minneapolis office. You may contact Mike at (612) 522-1212.

Thank you for your assistance. I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Keith Ellison".

KEITH ELLISON
Member of Congress

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Enclosure