

Chair Manning, Vice-Chair Bird, Ranking Member Robinson, and Members of the House Primary & Secondary Education Committee:

My name is Brandon Sauter. First, I would like to thank Representative Adam Bird for giving me the opportunity to express my opinion and personal experiences on this issue. For my whole high school career, the CCP classes have been worth the same on a GPA scale as AP classes. At first, I figured that the CCP classes would be just as rigorous and exhausting with work as the typical AP class would be and I went to my parents asking them which classes I should pursue. When finding out that certain top colleges actually don't want you taking college classes at a local college, I decided to stick with the AP route.

I discovered that the AP classes were no joke, and that I had to work not only on what we learned but on time management, as well, in order to complete all of the work assigned while keeping up with my athletics and daily life. During my sophomore year, I only took one class because that was what was offered at the time. My junior year, I took three different AP courses, and I finally realized what I was dealing with. I realized that these classes were on a whole new level than what I was used to previously. When pondering on what the CCP classes were doing, I asked a couple of my peers how their work loads were as well. The responses had me blown as they were nowhere near the caliber that the AP classes were. For example I had to read and annotate over 100 pages of an AP Language Arts textbook in a couple of days with other assignments assigned to me while a CCP student only had to write a page of a topic of their choice. I was frustrated even further when discovering they were getting the same GPA credit for doing less work.

Now I didn't come all the way up here to complain to a group of higher up people as I find that to be disrespectful and rude however, I want to share that I am not the only one who is dealing with these problems. A student who was very looked upon in the grade above me took every AP class possible, I had the pleasure of being in some of their classes. When discovering that she didn't even get top two in her class I was astonished as they were one of the hardest working students I know of and she excelled in all of her AP classes even though they were not easy at all. When discovering they were out ranked by kids taking CCP classes I couldn't help but feel sorrow for this student. Now sadly I am experiencing the same pattern as this student. I am currently in 9th for my class rank only taking one B in my highschool career; being an AP class that was known to be a struggling course. When finding out the people that were higher in rank than me a big majority of them were enlisted in CCP classes. I am currently taking five different AP classes for my senior year and I have this feeling of false hope of finishing close to the top of my class due to all of these kids getting away with taking these easier classes and not having to go through the struggle of keeping up with these AP classes.

I am not one to assume especially when it comes to other people's lives however, I've made this claim of CCP classes being easier by the CCP students coming up to me and even telling me that they are easy courses to take and that is why they take them. I believe that AP classes set one up better for success in college as it is a taste of what college will be like. I don't want the student body that is dedicated to success in the classroom by taking these AP classes to be grouped and rewarded the same as the student body taking CCP classes. I have had the opportunity to talk to college coaches for the sport of wrestling even some in the IVy league and when addressing the question of their opinion of which courses I should take they all said AP classes instead of CCP

classes because they want kids that are used to the rigorous course load so that they are set up for success in the future, so why should AP classes be worth the same as CCP classes?

I hope that hearing this starts to get people aware of this situation that is being displayed in the school. Not everyone is going to have the same opinion or experience that I've had with this issue however, I hope a change of heart was made today when deciding if a change should be made so that these AP classes start to reward the students with a higher GPA value in the future. Thank you everyone for giving me your time to hear me out on this matter.

I am happy to answer any questions the committee may have.