

**Jahilil Niles**

**February 17, 2022**

**Testimony for HB 648**

**The First-Generation College Bound program has helped me a lot with navigating the college admissions process, receiving the GA grant, and preparing to attend college. I joined the program in my 9<sup>th</sup> grade year at DuVal high school and throughout my 4 years at DuVal, FGCB has provided me with numerous resources such as the Transition to College Workshop in which we met three first-generation college students who provided us with tips on how they overcame challenges and, chose their major, and balanced their classes and life schedule. Before joining FGCB, I never heard of the GA grant. After receiving the GA grant for the 2021-2022 school year, I feel as though many others should be able to receive the full benefits, or at least some of the benefits, if their income qualifies them to do so. Without this grant, I would have had to take out student loans to cover what my scholarships and other awards did not cover.**