

Dear Chairwoman McIntosh,

I am Nicholas Prastos and I ask you to support this bill favorably. As a chronically ill patient resulting from Long Covid, I strongly believe these services are overdue and going to be especially needed after this pandemic. Estimates are predicting that between 10-30% of Covid patients will come down with some form of long covid. I personally have been unable to attend class (a masters program at New York University) because a system has not been set up to accommodate chronically ill students like me. It is unfortunate that with the proliferation of remote work and remote study we still have impediments when it comes to the academic system's ability to support the chronically ill. I believe reform and support is not only doable, it will be more affordable than would be in the past due to technology's influence on institutions and their students.

A higher education system that supports its chronically ill students with dedicated counselors to help us navigate our way through the learning and collegiate integration process in congruence with appropriate job assistance will be greatly beneficial to the students as well as society at large.

Thank you for listening.

Regards,

Nicholas Prastos