

## Chairman Martin and Chairwomen Williams

Good Morning, my name is Marie-Christelle Sahou. I am currently a freshman at East Stroudsburg university, majoring in criminal justice with the minor or public health. I was a part of the unlucky graduating class of 2020 of Bishop McDevitt High School in Wyncote, Pa.

I am appreciative and blessed for this opportunity that has been given to me to speak to you today. I have had a Catholic education since I was in preschool. I attended DePaul Catholic School for elementary and middle school. I've also been able to obtain a great education, but it was always up to me to do great with the education that I have.

Being a part of Bishop McDevitt and being an EITC/OSTC recipient has opened many doors for me. I would be selfish and unappreciative if I couldn't speak so others could walk through doors of opportunities just as I have. I am proud to be a lancer and anyone who knows me knows I'd do anything for my alum and my fellow classmates.

Being at McDevitt and with the fund I had received I was able to be soccer captain, track and field captain, Black Student Union President, Fashion Club Co-President, and a student ambassador. Without the tuition aid or fund my dad probably would still have to worry about me and where I'd be at this moment.

With the tuition aid it gave my family more of a gateway of hope. To know that someone was looking at me and my dreams. Here I am today speaking to you as proof how beneficial the fund were. I have now started my own small business selling mini purses and bags. I am in school to obtain my criminal justice degree, then later on my masters to put me on the pathway to being a state officer and future FBI agent.

I've never been the one to not take for the granted the opportunities that have been given to me. If given the increase of the EITC/OSTC fund/tuition aid, you are holding the opportunities and opening the doors for future males and females like me who needed the help and the attention that I have been giving. This could be the money of the future president or a future scientist to cure the next virus.

Having these funds will give the next child an option and choice of picking the school of their liking instead of a school they have to go to because they couldn't afford where they wanted to go. Thank you and have a blessed day.