

From: MEGAN WILLEY

Subject: Concerned Senior

Hi. My name is Megan Kathleen Willey, I am 18 as of the 1st of this month, and I have a high school senior at North Thurston High School.

I am writing this email to you in hopes that maybe this will reach someone who can sit down and try to comprehend just what I'm saying, and realize it's not just me who feels this way.

I am struggling. I think everyone is. The death toll of COVID-19 is astronomical. It's killed more people in a month than the Flu has in a year. People are losing their jobs, schools are shutting down and going online. And despite everyone's best efforts there are people who will fail because they don't have access to the internet. There will be seniors who can't graduate on time because their parents lost their jobs, and now that Senior is paying rent and putting food on the table and has no time for school. There are seniors who can't get their antidepressants, and are spiraling down an uncontrollable path of self-destruction that they can't stop for the life of them.

I lost my job because of COVID-19. My dad is working at home, because of COVID-19. My mother is risking her life to serve people drinks they DON'T NEED almost EVERYDAY to put food on the table. And on top of this, I am college bound. I am going to Central Washington University to get my English degree so I can become an English teacher. But all of that rides on whether or not I graduate. And yes, I do realize that there is a no fail or no 'F' grade police that was put in place to help. However I know if a student gets an incomplete they will need to go through summer school. How many students do you think can afford to skip time off of work to go to summer school? How many parents do you think have the money and time to bring their kid to and from summer school and pay for it? It was a good idea, and I appreciate your effort to help all Seniors and students in general.

However, this can only go so far. You are helping the student's who do well in school either without trying or with hard work. Some students work extremely hard and still only get C's. Those kids may get incomplete and not be able to take summer school. Then they have no other option but to repeat their senior year.

I suggest reading Dr. Manuel Rustin's recent essay about the situation, and the article that the ASWP wrote about the article titled, "How Do We Grade During the Shutdown? "Do No Harm" is the Answer." I read both for my philosophy class today, and saw so many upsides to his suggestion to give all student's A's.

First, it would help seniors move on to what they were working towards their entire high school career. Second, it'll allow the underclassmen a chance to maintain a higher GPA that they'd need to go to college. Third, it'll help kids who don't have access to the internet despite everyone's best efforts to help. And last but certainly not least, it'll help kids who aren't in a good situation right now move on from their situation. There are some kids who aren't in a stable environment,

who see college or graduating high school as a final escape. As a fresh start to get away from their toxic relationships. Yes, there are students who aren't trying. There are students who will just waste their GPA and GED. However, that's a small number of students. Most student's are seriously trying their very best to graduate and do well in school. Giving every student an A will help Seniors move on with their lives and give the underclassmen a great start for their next year.

I appreciate you're doing your best in a time like this. I have personally never experienced something like this and I'm sure many others haven't. The police you put in place was nice, I'm sure you meant to help every student. However there are long lasting effects to that police that is more hurtful than helpful.

Thank you for your time, I hope this email finds you in fantastic health!

Yours truly,

A concerned Senior, Megan Willey