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To the Tall Clubs International Foundation Scholarship Committee,

I am writing to offer my strongest, unqualified recommendation for Dylan Arouh as a candidate for the TCI Foundation Scholarship. As Country Director for American Councils for International Education in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, I have had the privilege of working closely with Dylan during his participation in the U.S. Department of State's Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Abroad Program, one of the most competitive and prestigious State Department scholarships in the nation.

Dylan stands out among dozens of exchange students I have worked with throughout my career for his exceptional maturity, resilience, and unwavering commitment to service. What makes Dylan particularly remarkable is not just his academic excellence, but the personal context from which his achievements have emerged. Raised in a single-parent household, Dylan developed self-discipline and determination that define true leadership. Rather than viewing his circumstances as limitations, he transformed them into fuel for growth, cultivating habits of rigorous personal accountability that would be impressive in someone twice his age.

Academically, Dylan is outstanding. He will be graduating from Brunswick School, a selective preparatory institution in Greenwich, Connecticut, with a 1570 SAT score, placing him above the 99th percentile nationally. He is a National Merit Finalist and AP Scholar. Currently, he is thriving in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program at Druga Gimnazija in Sarajevo—the most selective public high school in Bosnia and Herzegovina and one of only two IB World Schools in the country. Despite the rigorous curriculum and the challenge of studying in a foreign education system far from home, Dylan earned a 39/42 in his first semester. These achievements reflect not just intelligence, but extraordinary work ethic and adaptability.

Dylan's decision to spend his senior year living with a Bosnian host family, attending one of the most demanding schools in the Balkans, and immersing himself in a post-conflict society demonstrates the kind of courage and global perspective that sets transformative leaders apart. He did not choose the comfortable path. He chose challenge, growth, and the opportunity to serve as a bridge between cultures during a formative year of his life.

Dylan's commitment to public service extends far beyond his exchange program. In the summer prior to his exchange year, he was nominated by Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer to serve as a U.S. Senate Page—one of only thirty students selected nationwide for this highly competitive program. On Capitol Hill, Dylan supported time-sensitive floor operations during active legislative sessions, developed a working knowledge of Senate procedures, and witnessed American democracy in action. He has also served the constituents in New York State with Senator Shelley Mayer's office, further demonstrating his dedication to civic engagement.

Throughout his time in Sarajevo, Dylan has consistently exceeded expectations. He has led our cohort in volunteering hours, with nearly one hundred hours of community service completed while on program. He navigates complex cross-cultural situations with grace and intelligence, communicates across language barriers, listens deeply to perspectives shaped by vastly different experiences, and finds common ground in our shared humanity. He represents his country with dignity and genuine curiosity about the world beyond America's borders.





What impresses me most about Dylan is his authentic commitment to giving back. He does not engage in service for accolades or résumé-building; he does so because he genuinely believes in contributing to something larger than himself. Dylan understands citizenship as active participation, not passive membership.

Dylan embodies the values I believe the TCI Foundation seeks to support, which are demonstrated leadership, meaningful community service, the ability to overcome personal challenges, and a clear commitment to using education as a tool for positive change. At 6'2", Dylan also meets TCI's height requirement for male applicants—but it is the stature of his character that truly sets him apart.

I recommend Dylan Arouh without reservation and with absolute confidence that he represents the best of what your scholarship program aims to support. He is exactly the kind of thoughtful, service-oriented young person who will use this investment to continue building a life defined by purpose, bridge-building, and positive impact.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'Selma Campara'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Selma Campara
Country Director, American Councils for International Education
Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
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