



STUDENTS REJECT HIGHER EDUCATION ACT DRUG PROVISION

The following student governments have endorsed a resolution calling for the repeal of the provision of the Higher Education Act that delays or denies college financial aid to persons with drug convictions:

United States Student Association • Association of Big Ten Schools • Florida Student Association
 Student Association of the State University of New York • United Council of University of Wisconsin Students
 American University (DC) • Amherst College (MA) • Appalachian State University (NC)
 Baltimore City Community College • Bates College (ME)
 Bergen Community College (NJ) • Brandeis College (MA) • Columbia College (Columbia University)
 Dalton College (GA) • Dartmouth College (NH) • De Anza College (CA) • Douglas College (Rutgers University)
 Earlham College (IN) • Florida A&M University • Florida International University at University Park
 Florida International University at Biscayne Bay Campus • Florida State University
 Georgetown University (DC) • George Washington University (DC)
 Goshen College (IN) • Gettysburg College (PA) • Grand Valley State University (MI) • Hampshire College (MA)
 Howard University (DC) • Illinois State University at Normal • Indiana University at Bloomington
 James Madison University (VA) • Lewis and Clark College (OR) • Linfield College (OR)
 Louisiana State University • Loyola University (IL) • Mercyhurst College (PA) • Monroe Community College (NY)
 Mount Holyoke College (MA) • New College of Florida • North Carolina State University
 Northwestern University (IL) • Ohio State University • Ohio University • Pennsylvania State University
 Pitzer College (CA) • Pomona College (CA) • Portland Community College at Cascade (OR)
 Portland Community College at Rock Creek (OR) • Portland State University (OR) • Rice University (TX)
 Rochester Institute of Technology (NY) • Saint Cloud State University (MN) • Smith College (MA)
 South Carolina State University • Southern Illinois University at Carbondale • Southern Oregon University
 SUNY Albany • SUNY Binghamton • SUNY ESF • Syracuse University • Texas State University - San Marcos
 Union College (NY) • University of California at Berkeley • University of California at San Diego
 University of California at Santa Barbara • University of Colorado at Boulder
 University of Connecticut • University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign • University of Iowa • University of Kansas
 University of Maryland at College Park • University of Michigan • University of Minnesota at Twin Cities
 University of Missouri at Columbia • University of Montana - Missoula • University of Nevada at Las Vegas
 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill • University of North Carolina at Wilmington • University of North Texas
 University of Southern California • University of Texas at Austin • University of Texas at Dallas
 University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire • University of Wisconsin at Madison • University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee
 University of Wisconsin at Richland • University of Wyoming • University of Vermont • Utica College (NY)
 Washington University (MO) Wesleyan University (CT) • Western Connecticut State University • Western Maryland College
 Western State College (CO) • Western Washington University • Yale University

WHEREAS A provision in the Higher Education Act of 1998 mandates that students convicted of any drug- related offense (without regard to the nature of the offense or the offender) be denied eligibility for financial aid for periods ranging from one year to "indefinite," and;

WHEREAS No other class of offender (including those convicted of rape or other violent offenses) faces similar restriction on student loan eligibility, and;

WHEREAS This provision will, by its very nature, impact primarily students of low to moderate economic means, and;

WHEREAS This provision will also have a discriminatory impact on people of color, as their communities are disproportionately targeted for enforcement of the drug laws (e.g. African Americans, who comprise 12% of the nation's population and 13% of drug users, make up 55% of those convicted of drug offenses), and;

WHEREAS To the extent that the federal government involves itself in education, it should be focused on making it easier, not more difficult, for citizens to educate themselves, and;

WHEREAS Education is an important factor in allowing people to become more productive, well-rounded citizens;

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, call upon the 108th United States Congress to overturn that section of the Higher Education Act of 1998 that denies or delays access to financial aid based upon convictions for drug-related offenses.

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