



Coalition for Higher Education Act Reform

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NEWS ADVISORY

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RISE Act to Expand Opportunities for Students *Representatives introduce bill to repeal anti-education law*

WASHINGTON, DC – In an effort to reverse a dangerous trend of the government blocking students from attaining financial aid to go to college due to prior drug convictions, members of Congress will introduce a bill to expand educational opportunities by repealing the Higher Education Act (HEA) Drug Provision.

WHO: **Rep. Barney Frank (MA-4)– moderator**, Rep. Robert Andrews (NJ-1), Rep. Tammy Baldwin (WI-2), Rep. Elijah Cummings (MD-7), Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (TX-18), Rep. Dennis Kucinich (OH-10), Rep. Barbara Lee (CA-9), Rep. Major Owens (NY-11), Rep. Bobby Rush (IL-1), Marisa Garcia (Drug Provision victim), Hilary Shelton (NAACP Washington Office Director), Larry Zaglaniczny (National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators), Jesselyn McCurdy (ACLU), Pat Taylor (Faces and Voices of Recovery), Scarlett Swerdlow (Students for Sensible Drug Policy), and others

WHAT: Press conference to announce the introduction of the Removing Impediments to Students' Education (RISE) Act

WHERE: The U.S. Capitol Building, Room HC8

WHEN: Thursday, March 10; 10:30 AM-11:00 AM

Rep. Barney Frank (MA-4) will introduce the Removing Impediments to Students' Education (RISE) Act with the support of 39 co-sponsors. If enacted, the bill will repeal the HEA Drug Provision, which, since taking effect in 2000, has denied financial aid to over 160,000 students with prior drug convictions. Two hundred organizations from across the country have called on Congress to repeal the law. With growing concern regarding the effects of this failed policy, during this Congress education advocates are expected to push hard in both the House and the Senate to reinstate aid to those who need it most.

The night before, on March 9, Rep. John Conyers (MI-14), will keynote a reception for the John W. Perry Fund, which provides scholarships to students affected by the Drug Provision. The event will be held at the George Washington University Club, 1918 F Street, NW, Washington, DC, from 6 to 8 pm.

For more information, please contact Chris Mulligan of the Coalition for Higher Education Act Reform (CHEAR) at 202-293-8340 (office) or 202-491-1544 (cell), or visit www.raiseyourvoice.com for a list of supporting organizations.

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