

Issue Platform 2013-2014

College Affordability

I. *Pell Grants (Federal Issue)*

a. To advocate against any piece of legislation that removes the Pell Grant eligibility for individuals that completely takes online courses. Grant information: Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA), Title IV, Part A, Subpart 1; 20 U.S.C. 1070a

II. *In-State Tuition for Veterans (State Issue)*

a. Grants Veterans of the Armed Forces including reservist, in-state college tuition who; Attend the physical location of the institution in the state or physically reside in the state, and participate in online class.

Related Legislation (2014 Florida Legislative Session)

House Bill 35 – Sponsors: Rep. Peters & Rep. Fitzenhagen

Senate Bill 84 – Sponsor: Sen. Latvala

III. *In-State Tuition for Undocumented Students (State Issue)*

a. Grants undocumented students in-state tuition within Florida.

Related Legislation (2014 Florida Legislative Session)

House Bill 51 – Sponsor: Rep. Fullwood

Senate Bill 300 – Sponsor Sen. Bullard

Residency

I. *Residency for Tuition Purposes (State Issue)*

a. Revises certain residency requirements for tuition purposes for dependent children; prohibits denial of classification as resident for tuition purposes based on certain immigration status; revises provisions relating to required documentation as evidence of residency; provides additional persons who shall be classified as residents for tuition purposes.

Related Legislation (2014 Florida Legislative Session)

House Bill 275 – Sponsor Rep. Torres

Senate Bill 428 – Sponsor Sen. Bullard

Student Loans

I. Student Loan Interest Rates

a. Caps the maximum rate on direct Stafford Loans at 8.5% and PLUS loans at 10.5% APR. This affects both Subsidized and Unsubsidized loans. Although this bill was signed by the president into law, we oppose this legislation because the caps on rates are still 3% greater than the marginal rate for loans issued by the treasury department. The organization should support only a rate +1.5% over the current marginal rate, so as to only provide enough interest to facilitate new loans. Related bill: H.R. 1911: Bipartisan Student Loan Certainty Act of 2013

b. Repeal and replacement of H.R. 1911 with a bill that caps rates at the marginal lending rate for those loans issued by the treasury. The current legislation caps rates at +3% above the marginal rate for loans issued by the treasury. A reduction in this amount would decrease the debt burden on students and parents with Direct unsubsidized and PLUS loans by reducing the cumulative interest paid by the student following graduation or by the parent/guardian co-signing for the PLUS loan. The legislation in its current form does not do enough to limit the debt.