



HR0201

LRB097 11151 GRL 52657 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, President Barack Obama has pledged to provide
3 support to students in an effort to reach his goal of the
4 United States leading the world with the highest proportion of
5 college graduates by 2020; and

6 WHEREAS, America's higher education system is comprised of
7 public and private schools, both for-profit and
8 not-for-profit; it is a recognized fact that for-profit career
9 colleges and technical schools are a critical part of our
10 educational infrastructure; and

11 WHEREAS, These schools are currently serving a
12 disproportionately high number of adult, minority, and
13 lower-income students typically identified as "at risk"; and

14 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Education is
15 considering a Gainful Employment rule that would affect all
16 for-profit colleges, universities, and technical schools here
17 in Illinois and throughout the nation; and

18 WHEREAS, The rule would eliminate the opportunity to pursue
19 a chosen program utilizing Title IV financial aid should the
20 student fail to meet an arbitrary debt-to-income ratio; and

1 WHEREAS, The proposed rule would deny opportunity to
2 students who, due to their socio-economic backgrounds, are most
3 likely to fail this litmus test and thus harm those who need
4 help the most; and

5 WHEREAS, The students and academic programs that would be
6 most affected by this measure are those most critical to
7 meeting the Obama Administration's post-secondary education
8 goals; and

9 WHEREAS, For-profit institutions tailor their programs to
10 these non-traditional students who enroll in career and
11 technical programs to gain real-world skills, often while
12 working or caring for their own families; and

13 WHEREAS, These institutions of higher learning have
14 educated millions of students, afforded them career
15 opportunities, and served the student population extremely
16 well; and

17 WHEREAS, Rates of student debt incurred to achieve these
18 goals are a concern shared by students, families, and our
19 nation as a whole; and

20 WHEREAS, The unintended consequences of this regulation
21 would harm students, families, communities, and the economic

1 strength of our nation; and

2 WHEREAS, A large, bi-partisan majority in the United States
3 House of Representatives has expressed their disapproval of the
4 current rule as an inappropriate response to these issues by
5 voting to defund efforts to implement the proposal; therefore,
6 be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
8 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
9 we urge the United States Department of Education and Education
10 Secretary Arne Duncan to not endorse the Gainful Employment
11 rule, an ill-conceived approach to regulating student
12 financial aid which limits choice and opportunity, and instead
13 work with Congress on a solution that does not further harm the
14 very students it seeks to protect; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be sent
16 to Secretary Arne Duncan.