



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–LA CROSSE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

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SA1516-041: Resolution Addressing Governor Walker’s College Affordability Proposals

DATE: February 17th, 2016

AUTHOR(S): Jacob Schimmel (State Affairs Director)

SPONSOR(S): Alfonso Gunaratnam, Matt Eidenschink, Thomas Schultz, Spenser Garcia

WHEREAS; Governor Scott Walker proposed several bills after his State of the State address; these bills are AB 739/SB 622, AB 741/SB 592, AB 740/SB 540, AB 743/SB 593, AB 742/SB 594, and AB 744/SB 595;

WHEREAS; AB 739/SB 622 lifting the cap on income tax deductions only applies to those who are able to afford more than \$2500 of loan interest payment per year, and not students who are struggling to make college loan payments;

WHEREAS; AB 741/SB 592 giving grants to two-year/technical college students only provides 900 students a maximum of \$500 in financial assistance. With an average debt of more than \$10,000 per student in two-year/technical institutions, this proposal will not be able to make a noticeable difference in college affordability

WHEREAS; AB 740/SB 540 provides an additional \$1,000,000 in grant funding for the WTCS, which will increase students receiving grants by 1,000. However, with 24,275 students receiving grants and 34,725 students meeting the need for them and applying, significantly more grants will be needed to solve this issue;

WHEREAS; AB 743/SB 593 and AB 742/SB 594 provides a total \$700,000 in funding to fund further initiatives to increase students in internships. With the previously stated numbers of students in Wisconsin public institutions, more funding is needed in order to have an effect on increasing internships.

WHEREAS; AB 744/SB 595, while providing helpful financial information to college students, is an unfunded mandate that further takes money out of Wisconsin institutions of higher education;

WHEREAS; The University of Wisconsin system and the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) has a combined enrollment of over 550,000;

WHEREAS; The proposals mainly address a very small number of two-year/technical college students, and only a few thousand students will be assisted financially through the new proposals.

WHEREAS; The legislation proposed contains no focus on students attending 4-year institutions, and offers no specific financial assistance to those students;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; The Student Association of the University of Wisconsin- La Crosse does not believe that these legislative proposals go far enough in assisting students of Wisconsin, and strongly encourages the Governor and State Legislature to further expand financial assistance to students, particularly at four-year institutions.

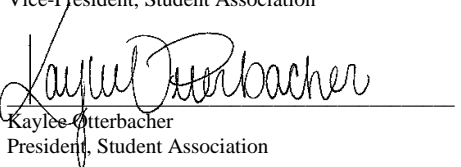
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; Upon its passing, a copy of this resolution is to be sent to Governor Scott Walker's office, State Senator Jennifer Shilling, State Representative Jill Billings, State Representative Steve Doyle, State Senator Howard Marklein, and State Senator Sheila Harsdorf.



Molly Davis
President, Student Senate
Vice-President, Student Association

02-24-2016

Date



Kaylee Otterbacher
President, Student Association

02-24-2016

Date