



Monroe County Legislature

WILLIE J. LIGHTFOOT

LEGISLATOR - DISTRICT 27

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Committee Assignment
Memorializing Referral -L

July 7, 2008

To the Honorable
Monroe County Legislature
407 County Office Building
39 West Main Street
Rochester, New York 14614

RE: Memorializing the United States Congress to Pass and President Bush to Sign into law S.3141, Preventing Student Loan Discrimination Act

Honorable Legislators:

Broad access to institutions of higher education is a critical tool in the fight to grow our nation's middle class. Often times, access is provided in large part by one's ability to pay for their studies. For many students, community colleges offer an excellent and affordable choice to enter into the higher education system. In Monroe County we are fortunate to have what is widely seen as one of the premier community colleges in the nation—Monroe Community College.

Regrettably, some lenders participating in the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) have enacted practices that discriminate against students on the basis of income, the school they choose to attend and the length of their academic program.

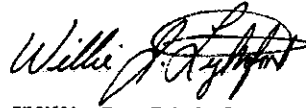
According to U.S. Senator Patty Murray, a member of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, some FFELP student loan lenders are choosing to no longer offer loan services to students at schools with program lengths of two years and smaller four-year schools.

Gaining access to higher education provides individuals of all ages with a path forward to opportunity and success, virtually ensuring a more financially stable life than those who have no college education. Equitable student loan financing options, based on an individual's creditworthiness, should be the rule. Students choosing a two-year degree program or choosing a smaller four-year college should not be held to a disadvantage.

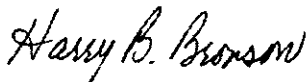


Therefore, we urge you to join us in memorializing the United States Congress to pass, and President George W. Bush to sign into law S.3141, thereby ensuring greater access to educational success by prohibiting FFELP lenders that receive federal subsidies on loans under the FFELP program from denying loans to eligible students based on the characteristics of their college.

Respectfully Submitted,



Willie Joe Lightfoot
Legislator – District 27



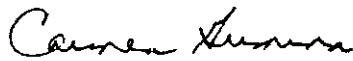
Harry B. Bronson
Democratic Minority Leader



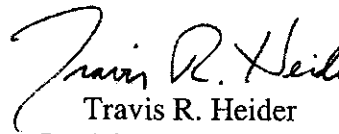
Carrie M. Andrews
Assistant Minority Leader



Richard A. Beebe
Legislator – District 6



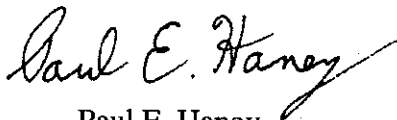
Carmen F. Gumina
Legislator – District 8



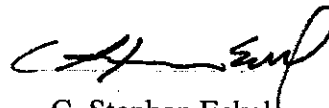
Travis R. Heider
Legislator – District 14



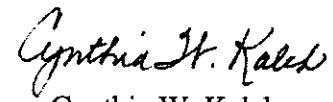
Ted O'Brien
Legislator - District 17



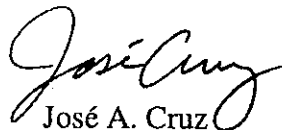
Paul E. Haney
Legislator – District 23



C. Stephen Eckel
Legislator – District 26



Cynthia W. Kaleh
Legislator – District 28



José A. Cruz
Legislator – District 29