

MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Chelsa Wagner

SUBJECT: Introduction of Legislation – Community College Educational Assistance Act

In the near future, I intend to introduce legislation that will provide our community college students with more affordable access to a four-year college or university.

My legislation would establish the Community College Education Assistance Act. If passed, the stand-alone act would create the “Educational Assistance Program.” The program would provide financial assistance to eligible students who have completed 60 credits, and maintained a 3.0 cumulative grade point average on a 4.0 scale, at a Pennsylvania community college. Assistance would be provided to these students by requiring the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) to disregard one third of the eligible student’s expected family contribution (EFC) and Pell grant award when calculating the eligible student’s Pennsylvania State grant.

Attending a community college before transferring to a four-year program can help to better prepare students for ultimate success in higher education, cost the state less in aid, and keep down debt for students and families.

This legislation was suggested to me by a constituent, Bryan Ceberio, a student at Community College of Allegheny County.

I believe students who succeed in community college deserve to have an affordable way to continue their education at a four-year college or university. If you would like to join me in co-sponsoring this legislation, please contact Jonathan Detrick at jdetrick@pahouse.net.