

A RESOLUTION

Designating the month of January 2014 as "Financial Aid Awareness Month" and commending the work of the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency and the Pennsylvania Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators.

WHEREAS, January is the first month in which students can apply for financial aid to help finance their postsecondary education; and

WHEREAS, The ability of some college students to attend and pursue a postsecondary education is conditional on the availability of student financial assistance; and

WHEREAS, Knowledge of the availability of student financial aid to help finance a postsecondary education has been shown to vary across demographic groupings; and

WHEREAS, The Commonwealth, through the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA), has been one of the leading states in the nation, providing need-based State grant financial assistance to eligible Pennsylvania residents and providing other State financial assistance programs; and

WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (PASFAA) has been one of the leading State associations of financial aid professionals in the nation who advocate for access to postsecondary education and educate the public on financial aid and funding opportunities; and

WHEREAS, The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the first step in the financial aid process to apply for Federal student aid, such as the Pell Grants, student loans and college work-study programs; and

WHEREAS, FAFSA information is also used to award State grants to Commonwealth students pursuing postsecondary education; and

WHEREAS, The Commonwealth, PHEAA and PASFAA want to promote

the availability of student financial assistance to help finance a postsecondary education, in the form of Federal grants, State grants, loans, work-study programs and other specialized State funding programs to help eligible Pennsylvanians pursue their postsecondary endeavors; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the month of January 2014 as "Financial Aid Awareness Month," urge all Commonwealth citizens pursuing higher education to apply for financial aid through FAFSA and recognize the work of PHEAA and PASFAA in their respective efforts to promote the availability of postsecondary student financial assistance for the residents of this Commonwealth.