
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 127 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY ROEBUCK, SONNEY, HARRIS, HENNESSEY, MURT,
DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, KINSEY, CALTAGIRONE, HARKINS, ULLMAN,
PYLE, RYAN, MILLARD, READSHAW, KORTZ, LONGIETTI, FREEMAN,
HILL-EVANS, BURNS, CIRESI, PASHINSKI AND STURLA,
MARCH 8, 2019

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MARCH 8, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of March 25 through 29, 2019, as "Public
2 Higher Education Affordability Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Recently the Institute for Higher Education Policy
4 (IHEP) found that 70% of American colleges are unaffordable for
5 lower-income and middle-income students who are unwilling or
6 unable to take out student loans; and

7 WHEREAS, Nationwide there are approximately 1,500 colleges
8 and universities where the majority of students who borrowed
9 Federal loans are making interest-only payments on their loans
10 or no payments at all; and

11 WHEREAS, According to LendEDU, Pennsylvania ranks the
12 highest, at 51st, in average student debt by state with \$36,193;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, One of the most important steps we can take is to
15 reduce or eliminate student debt; and

16 WHEREAS, Prospective students, families and taxpayers alike

1 are increasingly concerned about the rising cost of higher
2 education in this Commonwealth; and

3 WHEREAS, According to the Lumina Foundation, in the past 10
4 years, college prices rose 45% while incomes have decreased by
5 7%; and

6 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth understands the importance of
7 saving for higher education and the difficulties of saving that
8 students and parents face; and

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

12 WHEREAS, The Tap 529 Program and the Keystone Scholars
13 Program can provide different methods of saving for higher
14 education; and

15 WHEREAS, Fluctuating appropriations and enrollment levels in
16 combination with increasing administrative costs have caused an
17 unprecedented fiscal pressure for colleges and universities; and

18 WHEREAS, Colleges and universities are significant economic
19 enterprises contributing to the cultural, educational and
20 financial success and stability of the region in which they are
21 located; and

22 WHEREAS, Higher education is a critical mechanism for
23 socioeconomic advancement and economic mobility in our society;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, All residents of this Commonwealth benefit from the
26 skills and education gained by students at our institutions of
27 higher education; and

28 WHEREAS, The future of this Commonwealth depends in part on
29 the ability of public and private institutions of higher
30 education to continue to fulfill their missions; therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
2 week of March 25 through 29, 2019, as "Public Higher Education
3 Affordability Week" in Pennsylvania, educating Commonwealth
4 residents pursuing higher education on applying for available
5 aid.