

**Resolution 2027-R-021505**

- A resolution calling for repeal of the provision in the federal Higher Education Act denying financial aid to students with prior drug-related offenses

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**Whereas,** a provision in the Higher Education Act of 1998 mandates that students convicted of any drug-related offense, regardless of the nature of the offense or the offender, be denied eligibility for financial aid for periods ranging from one year to "indefinite"; and

**Whereas,** no other class of offender, including those convicted of rape or other offenses, faces similar restriction on student loan eligibility; and

**Whereas,** this provision will, by its very nature, impact primarily students of low to moderate economic means; and

**Whereas,** this provision will also have a discriminatory impact on people of color, as their communities are disproportionately targeted for enforcement of the drug laws; and

**Whereas,** to the extent that the federal government involves itself in higher education, it should be focused on making it easier, not more difficult, for citizens to educate themselves; and

**Whereas,** education is an important factor in allowing people to become more productive, well-rounded citizens;

**Therefore let it be resolved,** that the Student Senate of The University of Toledo, on behalf of the student community, calls upon the United States House of Representatives and Senate to overturn the section of the Higher Education Act that denies or delays access to financial aid based upon convictions for drug-related offenses; and

**Furthermore let it be resolved,** that Student Senate will forward this resolution to our congressional delegation.