

Submitter: Marisa Bayouth-Real

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Higher Education

Measure: HB3499

The success of our state and country's future depends on how educated we are. I began teaching in a small rural school in 2003, and for the first time in my life was exposed to generational poverty. Many of the families I taught were elated to have their child complete high school. Attending college wasn't even a consideration. Over my first 10 years in the classroom, I was able to see the benefits of having just one family member attend college. Due to the small, close knit community I live and work in, I was able to see the positive impacts within the family. Subsequent siblings who came through my classroom were able to envision themselves going to college because their older sister had. Several of us educators worked tirelessly to secure them scholarships, grants, and loans. It's now been long enough that those three students who attended college have children of their own. Each of the three of them have stable housing and a career. This means that the next generation, their children, are growing up with greater stability, and will most likely experience greater success. By eliminating the barrier of finances, we will allow our population to become more educated and productive. Lack of money should not stop anyone from being able to learn.