

1 [Drug Conviction/Financial Aid Resolution]

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3 **Resolution urging San Francisco Congressional representatives to overturn the**  
4 **provision of the Higher Education Act of 1998 that denies or delays access to financial**  
5 **aid for persons convicted for drug-related offenses.**

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7 WHEREAS, A provision in the Higher Education Act of 1998 mandates that students  
8 convicted of any drug- related offense (without regard to the nature of the offense or the  
9 offender) be denied eligibility for financial aid for periods ranging from one year to "indefinite;"  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, No other class of offender (including those convicted of rape or other  
12 violent offenses) faces similar restriction on student loan eligibility; and,

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14 WHEREAS, This provision will, by its very nature, impact primarily students of low to  
15 moderate economic means; and,

16 WHEREAS, This provision will also have a discriminatory impact on people of color, as  
17 their communities are disproportionately targeted for enforcement of the drug laws (e.g.  
18 African Americans, who comprise 12% of the nation's population and 13% of drug users,  
19 make up 55% of those convicted of drug offenses); and,

20  
21 WHEREAS, To the extent that the federal government involves itself in education, it  
22 should be focused on making it easier, not more difficult, for citizens to educate themselves;  
23 and,

24 WHEREAS, Education is a factor in allowing people to have greater opportunities in  
25 life and prevent their involvement in drug related crime; now therefore be it

1           RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges Congressional  
2 representatives of San Francisco to overturn the section of the Higher Education Act of 1998  
3 that denies or delays access to financial aid based upon convictions for drug-related  
4 offenses.

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# City and County of San Francisco

City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

## Tails Resolution

**File Number:** 071644

**Date Passed:**

Resolution urging San Francisco Congressional representatives to overturn the provision of the Higher Education Act of 1998 that denies or delays access to financial aid for persons convicted for drug-related offenses.

December 11, 2007 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Alioto-Pier, Ammiano, Chu, Daly, Dufty, Elsbernd, Maxwell, McGoldrick, Mirkarimi, Peskin, Sandoval

File No. 071644

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on December 11, 2007 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

12.18.07

Date Approved

Angela Calvillo  
Clerk of the Board

  
Mayor Gavin Newsom