



**ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

SUBJECT: The Rising Costs of Higher Education and Student Loan Debt in New York State

PURPOSE: To examine the impact that increasing higher education costs are having on students and their families across New York State and ways in which student loan debt can be reduced.

**Albany, New York
Wednesday
November 30, 2016
10:00 a.m.
Roosevelt Hearing Room C
Legislative Office Building**

ORAL TESTIMONY WILL BE BY INVITATION ONLY

Rising higher education costs and increasing student debt continue to be a significant concern. According to the College Board, the national average cost of tuition, fees, room and board for 2015-16 was \$19,548 for resident students at public four-year colleges, \$43,921 for private nonprofit four-year colleges, and \$15,610 for for-profit colleges. According to the State Comptroller, student loan debt in New York has more than doubled in the last decade, growing by 112%. As of 2015, New York residents had an average of \$32,200 in student debt, higher than the national average of \$29,700. The number of student borrowers in New York also increased by more than 41% over the last ten years, with more than 2.8 million New Yorkers now taking on student loans.

In the 2016-17 State Budget, measures were taken to ease the financial burden on students. Over \$1 billion was provided to fund the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) to help eligible New York State residents pay for tuition.

This hearing will seek testimony from New York State public and private universities as well as from students and other interested parties on ways to reduce and relieve student loan debt in New York State. Specifically, this hearing will seek testimony on: the effectiveness of TAP and improvements that can be made; the cost of attendance across all sectors of higher education, including tuition, fees, room and board; factors driving the cost of attendance; average student loan debt; completion rates; job placement rates; student loan default rates; scholarship and loan forgiveness programs that have been beneficial to students, and; the efficacy of free community college proposals and debt-free college proposals.

Persons invited to present pertinent testimony to the Committee at the above hearing should complete and return the enclosed reply form as soon as possible. It is important that the reply form be fully completed and returned so that persons may be notified in the event of emergency postponement or cancellation.

Oral testimony will be limited to 10 minutes' duration. In preparing the order of witnesses, the Committee will attempt to accommodate individual requests to speak at particular times in view of special circumstances. These requests should be made on the attached reply form or communicated to Committee staff as early as possible.

Ten copies of any prepared testimony should be submitted at the hearing registration desk. The Committee would appreciate advance receipt of prepared statements.

In order to meet the needs of those who may have a disability, the Assembly, in accordance with its policy of non-discrimination on the basis of disability, as well as the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), has made its facilities and services available to all individuals with disabilities. For individuals with disabilities, accommodations will be provided, upon reasonable request, to afford such individuals access and admission to Assembly facilities and activities.

Hon. Deborah J. Glick

**Member of Assembly
Chairperson
Committee on Higher Education**

Hon. Jo Anne Simon

**Member of Assembly
Chairperson
Subcommittee on Tuition Assistance Program**

PUBLIC HEARING REPLY FORM

Persons invited to present testimony at the public hearing on The Rising Costs of Higher Education and Student Loan Debt in New York State are requested to complete this reply form as soon as possible and mail, email or fax it to:

Katherine Jesaitis
Committee Assistant
Assembly Committee on Higher Education
Room 513M, The Capitol
Albany, New York 12247
Email: jesaitisk@nyassembly.gov
Phone: (518) 455-4881
Fax: (518) 455-7250

- I plan to attend the following public hearing on The Rising Costs of Higher Education and Student Loan Debt in New York State on November 30, 2016.

- I plan to make a public statement at the hearing. My statement will be limited 10 minutes, and I will answer any questions which may arise. I will provide 10 copies of my prepared statement.

- I will address my remarks to the following subjects:

- I do not plan to attend the above hearing.

- I would like to be added to the Committee mailing list for notices and reports.

- I would like to be removed from the Committee mailing list.

- I will require assistance and/or handicapped accessibility information. **Please specify the type of assistance required:** _____

NAME: _____

TITLE: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

E-MAIL: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

FAX TELEPHONE: _____