



1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, 20 United States Code section 1091(r) was added in  
3 1998 as an amendment to the Higher Education Act; and

4 WHEREAS, This amendment excludes all students with any past  
5 drug conviction from receiving federal financial aid to attend  
6 institutions of higher learning; and

7 WHEREAS, This amendment makes no distinction between the  
8 age of the drug offense or the level of the drug offense; and

9 WHEREAS, This amendment precludes all prior convicted drug  
10 offenders from receiving financial aid for higher education  
11 while individuals convicted of rape, arson, or armed robbery  
12 are eligible for such aid; and

13 WHEREAS, According to the United States Department of  
14 Education statistics, 140,000 students have either been denied  
15 financial aid or stopped applying for aid as a result of this  
16 drug provision; and

17 WHEREAS, This federal provision has had the effect of  
18 punishing individuals who have already served criminal  
19 sentences and paid their fines and who are attempting to become  
20 productive citizens and taxpayers by obtaining higher  
21 education degrees; and

22 WHEREAS, The repeal of 20 United States Code section  
23 1091(r) has the support and backing of more than seventy  
24 organizations around the country, including the National  
25 Education Association, the National Council for Higher  
26 Education, the American Federation of Teachers, the National  
27 Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, and the  
28 National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities;  
29 therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
2           NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
3           SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we urge Congress and the  
4           President of the United States to take immediate steps to  
5           repeal 20 United States Code section 1091(r); and be it further

6           RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be presented to  
7           the President of the United States, the President of the United  
8           States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of  
9           Representatives, and each member of the Illinois Congressional  
10          Delegation.