

News...

...from the Illinois House of Representatives

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Legislature Votes to Eliminate Controversial Legislative Scholarship Program

CHICAGO – The Illinois General Assembly voted on Monday to eliminate the controversial legislative scholarship program, sending the bill to Governor Pat Quinn for his signature.

“It has been made clear over the years that this is not a program that we should be subsidizing with taxpayer dollars,” said state Rep. Sara Feigenholtz (D-Chicago), who has not participated in the program for several years and was a chief co-sponsor of the legislation.

Illinois universities reported over \$13 million in lost tuition dollars through the General Assembly Scholarship Program last year alone.

The General Assembly Scholarship Program allows each state legislator to award eight 1-year scholarships annually to students living in their district and attending an Illinois public college.

With few guidelines other than residency requirements and no oversight, the program has experienced abuse over the years, with numerous reports of scholarships awarded by legislators to children of staff members, friends, or campaign donors.

“Making higher education accessible and affordable for all students is vital to the future success of our state,” Feigenholtz said. “However, we should focus our investments in programs that give all students an equal opportunity at financial assistance, rather than one that has been known to be exploited for political gain.”

For more information on scholarship, grant, and financial aid opportunities for college students, visit <http://www.staterepsara.com/services/student> or contact Feigenholtz’s constituent services office at (773) 296-4141 or sara@staterepsara.com.

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