

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 697

Designating November 2018 as “National College Application Month”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 15, 2018

Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. SCOTT) submitted the following resolution;
which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Designating November 2018 as “National College
Application Month”.

Whereas equality of opportunity for all people is one of the
noblest aspirations of the United States;

Whereas the National Center for Education Statistics reports
that the employment rate for young adults with a bach-
elor’s degree and the employment rate for young adults
whose highest credential is a high school diploma differ
by 14 percentage points;

Whereas a 2015 study by Georgetown University identified
that the average lifetime earnings gap between college
graduates and individuals with only a high school di-
ploma is \$1,000,000;

Whereas the Pew Economic Mobility Project finds that whether a child born in the lowest income quintile obtains a 4-year degree or higher credential is associated with—

(1) an approximately 70-percent difference in the probability of that child earning an income outside the lowest income quintile; and

(2) a threefold difference in the probability of that child going on to earn an income in the highest income quintile;

Whereas the Education Commission of the States highlights that the number of nontraditional students at colleges and universities is expected to rise 65 percent faster than the number of traditional students during the 15-year period ending in 2024;

Whereas the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that approximately 33 percent of high school graduates in 2017 did not matriculate to an institution of higher education the following fall semester, representing a modest decline in college enrollment since the year before;

Whereas the Bureau of Labor Statistics also reports that the unemployment rate for recent high school graduates not enrolled in college in the fall semester of 2017 was 16.8 percent, significantly higher than the national unemployment rate;

Whereas many secondary students struggle to identify and assess appropriate postsecondary options due to a number of factors, including insufficient information on programmatic outcomes and difficulties in accessing effective or consistent counseling services and resources;

Whereas the complexity of financial aid systems and processes, coupled with a shortage of effective and com-

prehensive financial literacy instruction, can serve as an additional deterrent or barrier for students and families as they assess the viability of higher education programs as a postsecondary option;

Whereas the United States built a thriving middle class in part by nurturing the potential for colleges and universities to serve as engines of social mobility; and

Whereas the data on the benefits of higher education demonstrate that, in spite of ongoing barriers to access and student success, colleges and universities can still serve as engines of social mobility: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) designates November 2018 as “National
3 College Application Month”;

4 (2) encourages the people of the United
5 States—

6 (A) to evaluate options for pursuing higher
7 education; and

8 (B) to support every student, regardless of
9 the background or resources of the student, in
10 obtaining the skills and knowledge needed to
11 thrive;

12 (3) supports efforts to better assist low-income
13 and first generation students throughout the college
14 application process;

15 (4) urges public officials, educators, parents,
16 students, and communities in the United States to

1 observe National College Application Month with ap-
2 propriate activities and programs designed to en-
3 courage students to consider, research, and apply to
4 college; and

5 (5) commends teachers, counselors, mentors,
6 and parents who support students throughout the
7 college application process, as well as the organiza-
8 tions and institutions partnering to eliminate bar-
9 riers to higher education.

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