

Passed by unanimous  
consent 9/9/14

## A.R. 8

### A.R. 8 — In Support of the State Loan Access and Student Protection Act

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#### IN THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Authors: Mr. Sergio Cavazos, Ms. Alayna Alvarez, Ms. Kimia Dargahi, Ms. Courtney May, Ms. Kenzie Spaniol, Mr. Joshua Tang, Mr. Ryan Wallace, Mr. Philip Wiseman, Mr. Horacio Villarreal,

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Sponsors: Mr. Sergio Cavazos, Mr. Tanner Long,

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WHEREAS, Student Government serves as the official voice of students at The University of Texas at Austin; and,

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WHEREAS, "About two-thirds of full-time undergraduate college students receive some type of financial aid;"<sup>1</sup> and,

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WHEREAS, Forty-six percent of the students at The University of Texas at Austin have been determined by the United States Department of Education to have financial barriers which, without financial assistance, would prevent them from college matriculation;<sup>2</sup> and,

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WHEREAS, The costs of university attendance are nationally rising and the number of students applying for need-based financial aid has been exponentially increasing at the same time;<sup>3,4</sup> and,

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WHEREAS, The University of Texas at Austin has routinely cited, "keep[ing] at UT Austin degree as affordable as possible for our students and their families," as a priority mission for the institution;<sup>5</sup> and,

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WHEREAS, William Powers Jr., President of The University of Texas at Austin has stated, "Ensuring that low-income and underserved students are able to attend top universities like UT Austin helps these students and their families succeed. More than that, it bolsters our economy and improves society by ensuring that our brightest young minds have the chance to receive a world-class education and flourish;"<sup>6</sup> and,

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WHEREAS, The University of Texas at Austin had made a commitment that it, "must tap into the diversity that our state embodies;"<sup>7</sup> and,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/financial-aid-101/financial-aid-faqs>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.google.com/url?q=https%3A%2F%2Fsp.austin.utexas.edu%2Fsites%2Fut%2Fprt%2FDocuments%2FIMA\\_PUB\\_CDS\\_2013\\_AY.pdf&sa=D&sntz=1&usq=AFQiCNGTuuWU7GD5av59LWTHwuNyT9aRDg](https://www.google.com/url?q=https%3A%2F%2Fsp.austin.utexas.edu%2Fsites%2Fut%2Fprt%2FDocuments%2FIMA_PUB_CDS_2013_AY.pdf&sa=D&sntz=1&usq=AFQiCNGTuuWU7GD5av59LWTHwuNyT9aRDg)

<sup>3</sup> <http://hechingerreport.org/content/data-show-poorer-families-bearing-brunt-college-price-hikes-14999/>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.finaid.org/fafsa/fafsastatistics.phtml>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.utexas.edu/transforming-ut/about/mission-objectives>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.utexas.edu/news/2014/01/16/president-powers-white-house-higher-education-summit/>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/about/message-powers.php>

WHEREAS, Maintaining financial aid has been linked at keeping college affordable for all socioeconomic classes and has been attributed to maintaining diversity within the student body; and,

WHEREAS, Federal funding for financial aid is shrinking, making the need of state-funded financial aid programs even greater;<sup>8</sup> and,

WHEREAS, The Texas B-on-Time Loan Program was established by the Texas Legislature and was, “intended to increase access to higher education in Texas and encourage on-time graduation;”<sup>9</sup> and,

WHEREAS, “Universities are unable to give students and their families the full truth about how they finance a college education,” due to an, “unintended consequence;”<sup>10</sup> and,

WHEREAS, As a result of these unintended consequences, “Statewide, about 36 percent (or \$32 Million) of B-On-Time Loan funds went unused in 2011;”<sup>11</sup> and,

WHEREAS, H.R. 3371, authored by Representative Ruben Hinojosa, would, “exempt certain state education loans from the requirement that when an institution of higher education (IHE) recommends, promotes, or endorses such loans, there need to be at least two unaffiliated lenders of those loans on the school’s preferred lender list;” thereby overcoming the impact of these unintended consequences and allow universities like The University of Texas at Austin to completely inform students of *all* of their financing options when attending college;<sup>12</sup> and,

WHEREAS, H.R. 3371 currently only has seven of the thirty-six Texas delegation members in the U.S. House of Representatives;<sup>13</sup> therefore be it,

RESOLVED, The University of Texas at Austin Student Government believes it is the right of every student and their family to have their full options for financing the most important investment of their life – a college education – made aware to them; and be it further,

RESOLVED, The University of Texas at Austin Student Government believes that every university should have the freedom to make students and their families aware of their full financing options for an investment in college; and be it further,

RESOLVED, The University of Texas at Austin Student Government reaffirms its support for a diverse student body and believes that the access financial aid programs like the Texas B-on-Time Loan Program afford to students and their families is a priority to maintain and support; and be it further,

RESOLVED, The University of Texas at Austin Student Government applauds Representative Hinojosa in his efforts to support access to higher education through his efforts in authoring and sponsoring H.R. 3371 in the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress of the United States; and be it further,

RESOLVED, The University of Texas at Austin Student Government fully supports and endorses H.R. 3371’s purpose in ensuring access to all of the information regarding financing a college education; and be it further,

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/paying-for-college/articles/2011/03/02/potential-cuts-to-pell-grant-could-affect-students-in-2011>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.tgsic.org/pdf/Texas-B-On-Time-Loan-Program.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.dailytexanonline.com/opinion/2014/04/15/laws-keep-students-in-dark-on-loan-options>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.dailytexanonline.com/news/2013/07/21/new-rules-will-allow-ut-to-award-more-b-on-time-loans>

<sup>12</sup> <http://beta.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-bill/3371>

<sup>13</sup> <http://beta.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-bill/3371/cosponsors>

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RESOLVED, The University of Texas at Austin Student Government calls upon the rest of the members of the Texas delegation in the United States House of Representatives who are currently not sponsoring H.R. 3371 to do so as it is not a partisan issue but an issue impacting students and families in every district within the state; and be it further,

RESOLVED, The University of Texas at Austin Student Government encourages students and their parents to call upon their representatives in Congress to support H.R. 3371's efforts in fixing the unintended consequences of the Higher Education Act of 1965 which prevent effective use of programs like the Texas B-on-Time Loan Program; and be it further,

RESOLVED, That this resolution be sent to the Office of the President, the Vice President of Student Affairs, the Office of the Dean of Students, Mr. Louie Gohmert (United States Congressman), Mr. Ted Poe (United States Congressman), Mr. Sam Johnson (United States Congressman), Mr. Ralph M. Hall (United States Congressman), Mr. Jeb Hensarling (United States Congressman), Mr. Joe Barton (United States Congressman), Mr. John Culberson (United States Congressman), Mr. Kevin Brady (United States Congressman), Mr. Al Green (United States Congressman), Mr. Michael T. McCaul (United States Congressman), Mr. Michael K. Conaway (United States Congressman), Mrs. Kay Granger (United States Congresswoman), Mr. Mac Thornberry (United States Congressman), Mr. Randy Weber (United States Congressman), Mr. Ruben Hinojosa (United States Congressman), Mr. Beto O'Rourke (United States Congressman), Mr. Bill Flores (United States Congressman), Mrs. Sheila Jackson Lee (United States Congresswoman), Mr. Randy Neugebauer (United States Congressman), Mr. Joaquin Castro (United States Congressman), Mr. Lamar Smith (United States Congressman), Mr. Pete Olson (United States Congressman), Mr. Pete Gallego (United States Congressman), Mr. Kenny Marchant (United States Congressman), Mr. Roger Williams (United States Congressman), Mr. Michael Burgess (United States Congressman), Mr. Blake Earenthold (United States Congressman), Mr. Henry Cuellar (United States Congressman), Mr. Gene Green (United States Congressman), Mrs. Eddie Bernice Johnson (United States Congresswoman), Mr. John Carter (United States Congressman), Mr. Pete Sessions (United States Congressman), Mr. Marc Veasey (United States Congressman), Mr. Filmon Vela (United States Congressman), Mr. Lloyd Doggett (United States Congressman), Mr. Steve Stockman (United States Congressman), Mr. Ted Cruz (United States Senator), Mr. John Cornyn (United States Senator), and all media outlets deemed necessary.

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