

As Offered

**131st General Assembly
Regular Session
2015-2016**

H. R. No. 282

Representatives Howse, Ramos

Cosponsors: Representatives Clyde, Fedor, Reece, Phillips, Bishoff, Bocchieri

A R E S O L U T I O N

To support efforts to ensure that students from Ohio 1
have access to debt-free higher education at 2
public colleges and universities. 3

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
OHIO:**

WHEREAS, The economic competitiveness of the United States 4
and Ohio in the global economy requires a well-educated 5
workforce; 6

WHEREAS, According to The Institute for College Access and 7
Success, students in Ohio currently have an average of \$29,353 8
in student loan debt upon graduation, which significantly 9
hinders their ability to participate in the local economy; 10

WHEREAS, Current and future young people in the United 11
States and Ohio should have the same opportunity offered to 12
those who went to college in previous generations, including the 13
ability to attend state institutions of higher education without 14
taking on burdensome debt; 15

WHEREAS, In 2015, higher education is more important than 16
ever because it is an essential step to entering and remaining 17
in the middle class; 18

WHEREAS, Because of the importance of higher education, the 19

United States and local governments should expand the 20
opportunity to pursue and attain higher education to more people 21
than had that opportunity in the past; 22

WHEREAS, Public investment in higher education pays off, as 23
evidenced by the fact the G.I. Bill resulted in a 7-to-1 return 24
on investment for our national economy and that workers with 25
college degrees earn more money, pay more taxes, and rely less 26
on government services; 27

WHEREAS, Student loan debt saddles the very students who 28
most depend on a college degree to level the economic playing 29
field with a burden that constrains career choices and hurts the 30
credit rating of students, prevents people from fully 31
participating in the economy by purchasing goods and services, 32
and threatens essential milestones of the American dream, 33
including the purchase of a home or car, starting a family, and 34
saving for retirement; 35

WHEREAS, Debt-free college resolutions in both chambers of 36
the United States Congress have gained national momentum in 37
recent months, creating a national dialogue around debt and 38
higher education; 39

WHEREAS, A national goal of debt-free college would include 40
significant federal aid to states, including Ohio; therefore be 41
it 42

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the House of 43
Representatives of the 131st General Assembly of Ohio, in 44
adopting this resolution, support efforts to enact legislation 45
that ensures all students have access to debt-free higher 46
education, where students have no debt upon graduation from any 47
public institution of higher education; supports efforts that 48
increase support to states in order to increase investments in 49
higher education and bring down costs for students; increases 50
aid to students to help them cover the total cost of college 51

attendance without taking on debt; encourages innovation by 52
states and institutions of higher education to increase 53
efficiency, lower costs, and enable speedy and less-costly 54
degree completion; and reduces the burden of existing student 55
loan debt; and be it further 56

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives 57
transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the 58
Governor and to the news media of Ohio. 59