

ECLEG FEB2014 at 9:56

A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY
LEGISLATORS HARDWICK, LORIGO, DIXON, MILLS, MORTON, & RATH

Re: Opposition to free collegiate education for incarcerated individuals

WHEREAS, the financial situation of New York State is in such a condition as to cause cutbacks of public programs and services across the state; and

WHEREAS, tuition at educational institutions across the state is continuously increasing at the expense of our state's students; and

WHEREAS, as a result of those tuition increases, students and their families have been forced to take on debt that will likely burden them through most of their adult lives; and

WHEREAS, it already costs the state tens of thousands of dollars to fund the incarceration of the State's prison system enrollees; and

WHEREAS, it is the proposed plan by Governor Andrew Cuomo to offer free tuition to incarcerated individuals under the ward of the state; and

WHEREAS, similar programs are already offered in the prison system through private funding; and

WHEREAS, no conditions are set for inmates to repay the money given for their education nor are they expected to work in one of the prison work programs to be eligible for the tuition.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature strongly opposes use of public money to fund a free education for individuals incarcerated for violating the law; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to Governor Andrew Cuomo's office, the Western NY delegates to the State Senate and Assembly, and all other parties deemed necessary and proper.

Fiscal Impact: None