

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED
BY LEGISLATOR BURKE**

RE: Calling on Governor Cuomo to Increase State Funding to Higher Education and on The New York State Legislature to grant debt relief to students.

WHEREAS, the recent uproar over funding of Higher Education for prisoners has spotlighted the very real need in our community for reform in Higher Education funding; and

WHEREAS, 2008-2009 state funding of the SUNY and CUNY systems have suffered large cuts of \$680 million and \$250 million respectively; and

WHEREAS, the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) was cut by \$74.3 million; and

WHEREAS, these cuts constitute a pattern of dangerous reductions in state support for higher education; and

WHEREAS, in state tuition has risen 17% and out-of-state tuition has risen 28%, and will continue to rise on the schedule passed by Governor Cuomo's "NYSUNY 2020" legislation in 2011; and

WHEREAS, these reductions force crippling levels of loan debt on eager students working to land jobs and establish themselves in our community; and

WHEREAS, the future workforce of our community requires affordable Technical and Higher Education options.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT,

RESOLVED, the Erie County Legislature calls on Governor Cuomo, and The New York State Legislature to increase state funding for Higher Education; and be it also,

RESOLVED, that The New York State Legislature act to grant relief to graduated students suffering under the costly debt incurred to get their educations; and be it also,

RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Cuomo, Leadership of The State Assembly and Senate, and the Chancellor of SUNY.

Fiscal Impact: None.