

Senate Concurrent Resolution 1 - Introduced

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1

BY ZAUN

1 A Concurrent Resolution urging Congress to enact
2 legislation to limit the interest rates collected or
3 imposed by the United States Department of Education
4 for certain federal student college loans.

5 WHEREAS, the Institute for College Access &
6 Success' Project on Student Debt finds that the average
7 statewide debt load for Iowa's public and private
8 college and university graduates, at \$29,859 for Iowa's
9 class of 2017, ranks the state as having the 20th
10 highest level of graduate debt in the nation; and

11 WHEREAS, the proportion of Iowa's class of 2017
12 graduating with debt, 63 percent, is the 9th highest in
13 the nation according to the institute; and

14 WHEREAS, The New York Times, in an editorial
15 published on March 18, 2018, reports that student
16 loan debt has soared to nearly \$1.4 trillion, and a
17 bipartisan group of 25 state attorneys general stated,
18 in a letter sent to the U.S. Secretary of Education
19 in 2017, that the 12 percent rate of delinquency and
20 default for student loans exceeds that of any other
21 loan category; and

22 WHEREAS, by reducing interest rates and keeping loan
23 payments manageable, college and career and technical
24 education program graduates can better afford payments,
25 pay off student debt sooner, and begin paying taxes
26 and achieving the essential milestones of the American
27 dream — including purchasing homes and vehicles,
28 starting families, and investing for retirement; NOW

1 THEREFORE,

2 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That the Iowa General
4 Assembly urges Congress to enact legislation limiting
5 the interest rates collected or imposed by the United
6 States Department of Education for loans made, insured,
7 or guaranteed under the William D. Ford Federal Direct
8 Loan Program or the Federal Perkins Loan Program at
9 not more than two percentage points over the federal
10 prime rate for the life of the loans of students
11 attending public and private accredited postsecondary
12 institutions; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this
14 Concurrent Resolution be distributed to the President
15 of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United
16 States House of Representatives, and each member of
17 Iowa's congressional delegation.