

April 3, 2006

RE: Letter of Opposition for SCR 1031

The Honorable James P. Weiers
Arizona House of Representatives, Room 221
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Speaker Weiers:

On behalf of [insert organization name here], I am writing in strong opposition to Senate Concurrent Resolution 1031, which would prevent undocumented students from receiving financial aid or paying in-state tuition, deny undocumented immigrants access to adult education courses, and deny children of undocumented immigrants access to the family literacy program and child care assistance (even if the child is a US citizen).

This bill would put our colleges and universities in the awkward position of acting as immigration officials and would cost them millions of extra dollars in enforcement and time spent on verifying legal residency. Since most financial aid is federal and is disbursed only to those eligible to fill out the FAFSA, the state would see no savings, and would possibly be spending more in costs associated with processing and verifying immigration status. Furthermore, Arizona's economic success depends on the education of its population. We urge the state to allow these deserving students access to the financial resources needed to complete their dreams and become economic contributors.

I respectfully oppose SCR 1031 and request that your Chamber defeat this legislation which would be harmful to the state's colleges and universities, students, and overall economic well-being.

Sincerely,

Name, Title and Address (if not on letterhead)

cc: The Honorable Stephen Tully, Majority Leader
The Honorable Phil Lopes, Minority