



**ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
ASSEMBLY SUBCOMMITTEE ON TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

NOTICE OF ONLINE VIDEO PUBLIC HEARING

SUBJECT: Impact of COVID-19 on state-funded student financial aid and access opportunity programs.

PURPOSE: To examine the impact of COVID-19 on state-funded student financial aid and access opportunity programs, including the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP).

Tuesday
September 22, 2020
10 AM

Web Link: <https://www.nyasembly.gov/av/live/>

ORAL TESTIMONY BY INVITATION ONLY

Currently, New York invests \$7.7 billion annually to assist students with accessing higher education. This includes 28 different scholarship and loan forgiveness programs including the Excelsior Scholarship and the largest grant program in New York, TAP. TAP helps approximately 263,000 eligible state residents annually pay for tuition at approved public and private higher education institutions. Additionally, the New York State Education Department oversees a variety of postsecondary access programs, including the Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) and Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), that provide special assistance to educationally and economically disadvantaged students.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused significant financial challenges and uncertainties for the State that may lead to a loss or reduction in the financial aid that has been traditionally available for students and their families. This could have far reaching consequences for students, colleges, and universities and severely impact a student's ability to complete his or her education. The Committees seek testimony from stakeholders on the impact of COVID-19 on state-funded student financial aid and access opportunity programs, including TAP. The Committees also welcome testimony on what steps are needed to mitigate the impacts of any potential student aid reductions.

Persons invited to present pertinent testimony to the Committees at the above hearing should complete and return the enclosed reply form as soon as possible. It is important that the reply form be fully completed and returned so that persons may be notified of means by which to testify and/or in the event of emergency postponement or cancellation.

Oral testimony will be limited to 5 minutes' duration. In preparing the order of witnesses, the Committees will attempt to accommodate individual requests to speak at particular times in view of special circumstances. These requests should be made on the attached reply form or communicated to Committee staff as early as possible.

Attendees and participants at any legislative public hearing should be aware that these proceedings are video recorded. Their likenesses may be included in any video coverage shown on television or the internet.

In order to further publicize these hearings, please inform interested parties and organizations of the Committees' interest in hearing testimony from all sources.

In order to meet the needs of those who may have a disability, the Assembly, in accordance with its policy of non-discrimination on the basis of disability, as well as the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), has made its facilities and services available to all individuals with disabilities. For individuals with disabilities, accommodations will be provided, upon reasonable request, to afford such individuals access and admission to Assembly facilities and activities.

Deborah Glick, Chair
Committee on Higher Education

Alicia Hyndman, Chair
Subcommittee on Tuition Assistance Program

PUBLIC HEARING REPLY FORM

Testimony will only be taken upon approval by the Committee Chairs. Individuals who have been invited to present testimony are requested to complete this reply form as soon as possible and email a copy of planned testimony. Individuals invited to participate will be notified within 48 hours of the hearing. All replies and testimony submissions must be emailed to:

Ashley Luz
Legislative Analyst
Assembly Committee on Higher Education
Email: luz@nyassembly.gov
Phone: (518) 455-4881

I have been invited to make a public statement at the hearing. My statement will be limited to 5 minutes, and I will answer any questions which may arise.

I will address my remarks to the following subjects:

I do not plan to attend the above hearing.

I would like to be added to the Committees' mailing list for notices and reports.

I would like to be removed from the Committees' mailing list.

I will require assistance and/or handicapped accessibility information. **Please specify the type of assistance required:** _____

ALL INFORMATION BELOW MUST BE COMPLETED:

NAME:

TITLE:

ORGANIZATION:

ADDRESS:

E-MAIL:

TELEPHONE: