

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 7-029

**A RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE THE REPEAL OF TAX INCENTIVES THAT
UNDERMINE HIGHER EDUCATION AND COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY**

- WHEREAS,** The University of Michigan (U-M) is ranked last among 25 “highly selective public universities” on the overall mobility index ¹; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** The University’s student body has a parental median income of \$154,000 ², as compared to the Michigan state median income of \$52,491³; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** U-M is committed to ensuring access to quality higher education because, as President Mark Schlissel writes, “higher education has served as a key driver of social mobility and economic growth in American society”⁴; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** The University demonstrates this belief and commitment through initiatives such as the Go Blue Guarantee,⁵ which is designed to address issues of socioeconomic diversity and educational access on this Campus; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** the House of Representatives version of the Federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act alters tax incentives meant to relieve higher education financial burdens, namely the elimination of the Lifetime Learning Credit, the Student Loan Interest Deduction, and tuition remission;⁶ **AND**
- WHEREAS,** The proposal repeals the Lifetime Learning Credit which “is used by grad students, workers who need retraining and part-time students and nontraditional undergraduates who take more than four years to graduate”⁷; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** The proposal also eliminates the Student Loan Interest Deduction of the tax code, which currently functions to allow “institutions to waive or

¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/projects/college-mobility/university-of-michigan-ann-arbor>

² <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/projects/college-mobility/university-of-michigan-ann-arbor>

³ http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2017/09/look_up_2016_median_income_in.html

⁴ <http://www.detroitnews.com/story/opinion/2017/11/27/tax-plan-hurts-students/108079378/>

⁵ <https://goblueguarantee.umich.edu/>

⁶ <http://www.detroitnews.com/story/opinion/2017/11/27/tax-plan-hurts-students/108079378/>

⁷ <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2017/11/03/gop-tax-overhaul-would-eliminate-tax-breaks-used-colleges-and-students>

reduce tuition costs for graduate students without tax implications”⁸;
AND

WHEREAS, The proposal also eliminates tuition remission, which is “a provision of the tax code used by many universities to waive the cost of tuition for graduate students filling positions like teaching assistantships”⁹; **AND**

WHEREAS, Elimination of these tax incentives undermines access and affordability of higher education; **AND**

WHEREAS, The university-wide plan for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) states that the University is committed to increasing diversity in many ways, including socioeconomic status¹⁰; **AND**

WHEREAS, It is a duty of the CSG to represent and advocate for student interests, especially on issues of educational access and affordability¹¹;
THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, The CSG opposes the aforementioned repeals that exacerbate limitations on access to higher education; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, The CSG joins President Schlissel in his encouragement of “smarter” tax reform¹²; **AND BE IT FINALLY**

RESOLVED, A copy of this resolution shall be sent to Michigan’s representatives in the House and Senate and the members of the tax reform conference committee.

Authors

Ibtihal Makki, College of Pharmacy

⁸<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2017/11/30/how-senate-and-house-tax-bills-would-hit-higher-education>

⁹<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2017/11/03/gop-tax-overhaul-would-eliminate-tax-breaks-used-colleges-and-students>

¹⁰https://diversity.umich.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Diversity_Equity_and_Inclusion_Year_One_Progress_Report.pdf

¹¹ <https://umcsg.files.wordpress.com/2016/09/final-amended-acc.pdf>

¹² <http://www.detroitnews.com/story/opinion/2017/11/27/tax-plan-hurts-students/108079378/>

Attest

Alex Contis, LSA
Speaker of the Assembly

Ali Rosenblatt, LS&A
Vice Speaker of the Assembly

President's Approval

Anushka Sarkar

Presented to the Assembly for *First Reads* on _____

Presented to the Assembly for *Second Reads* on _____

Yes: _____ No: _____ Abs: _____ Date: _____

Signature Necessary: _____ Signature Received By _____: _____

