

House Bill 5531

Elimination of Tuition Waivers for Children of University Faculty and Staff
Sponsor: Representative Luis Arroyo

OPPOSE

Summary: This legislation eliminates the 50% tuition waiver earned by university employees for their children to attend a public university in Illinois.

Vote NO on House Bill 5531

1. These 50 percent waivers are frequently counted on by university staff for their children who might not otherwise be able to afford college. **If this bill were to become law, the approximately 2,000 students who currently rely on this waiver in order to attend college will be put in jeopardy of not being able to complete their education.** Repealing this waiver for current faculty and staff would devastate many families that have factored this benefit into their college planning.
2. This tuition waiver applies to the children of all employees and not just faculty. **While we often think of faculty as the employees at a university, the reality is that many of the employees are low wage earners.** From cooks to physical plant employees, many of these employees make just over \$12 an hour. In order to qualify, a university employee must be employed for seven years. The waiver is a vital benefit to these individuals who would not otherwise be able to provide a college education for their children.
3. **The tuition waiver saves universities money.** Universities face numerous costs such as those associated with hiring and training. The tuition waiver encourages employees to stay long term, which in turn saves an institution money by not having to continually compete for and train new employees.
4. Public and private universities in virtually every state provide waivers for their employees to recruit and retain faculty and staff. **While Illinois provides a 50 percent waiver, it is not uncommon in other states to see a 100 percent waiver provided to the children of university and college staff.**
5. Some campuses have a difficult time recruiting and retaining faculty and staff because of location or other financial limitations. Tuition waivers help institutions recruit high quality faculty and staff. **Tuition waiver availability can often mean the difference between retaining high quality staff or losing an individual to an out-of-state institution.**

Organizations Opposing HB 5531

AFL-CIO
IFT
University Professionals of Illinois
IEA
SEIU
AFSCME
Illinois Nurses Association

University of Illinois
Western Illinois University
Northern Illinois University
Eastern Illinois University
Governor's State University