

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 441 Session of 2013

INTRODUCED BY ADOLPH, MAJOR, PEIFER, CLYMER, BRADFORD, CARROLL, ROEBUCK, GIBBONS, KILLION, KORTZ, YOUNGBLOOD, COHEN, NEILSON, KOTIK, BROWNLEE, VEREB, KIRKLAND, WATSON, SONNEY, HENNESSEY, DAVIS, SCHLOSSBERG, J. HARRIS, BISHOP, O'NEILL, JAMES, SNYDER, K. BOYLE, KNOWLES, PARKER, C. HARRIS, HARHART, AUMENT, O'BRIEN, LUCAS, BOBACK, MIRABITO, LONGIETTI, ROCK, DIGIROLAMO, MCGEEHAN, GRELL, MILLARD, R. BROWN, CALTAGIRONE, MARKOSEK, FLECK, MENTZER, SAINATO, READSHAW, PICKETT, HAHN, CORBIN, ROSS, OBERLANDER, GROVE, BIZZARRO, D. MILLER, GOODMAN, DENLINGER, KINSEY, GINGRICH, MICOZZIE AND MAHONEY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2013

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, SEPTEMBER 19, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Congratulating the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance
 2 Agency's Board of Directors, work force and management during
 3 its 50th year of service to Pennsylvania students, families
 4 and taxpayers on behalf of the Commonwealth.

5 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency
 6 was established by an act of the General Assembly on August 7,
 7 1963; and

8 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania voters approved by referendum the Act
 9 to amend the Constitution of Pennsylvania on November 5, 1963,
 10 thereby providing for student grant and student lending to
 11 Pennsylvania citizens pursuing a postsecondary education; and

12 WHEREAS, The agency was designated in 1964 by the United
 13 States Department of Education as the Federal student loan
 14 guarantor for Pennsylvania, and has since then guaranteed \$109

1 billion in student loans; and

2 WHEREAS, The agency was authorized by the General Assembly to
3 administer the State-funded Pennsylvania State Grant Program in
4 1965, and has since disbursed more than \$8.7 billion in State
5 grants to 2.2 million Pennsylvania students; and

6 WHEREAS, The General Assembly enacted legislation in 1972
7 that allowed for student loan servicing activity to help support
8 the agency's public service mission, thereby solidifying its
9 path toward self-sufficient operations, which has saved
10 taxpayers billions of dollars over the years; and

11 WHEREAS, The agency began operating nationally as American
12 Education Services, a Federal student loan guarantor and student
13 loan servicer to generate additional resources to support
14 Pennsylvania students and families pursuing a higher education;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, The agency was selected by the United States
17 Department of Education in 2009 to help service the nation's
18 growing portfolio of Federal direct student loans, prompting the
19 creation of the agency's FedLoan Servicing operation, which
20 currently services \$144 billion in loans for nearly 6.2 million
21 students; and

22 WHEREAS, The agency has created thousands of jobs for
23 generations of Pennsylvania citizens, and currently operates
24 facilities in Allegheny, Dauphin, Cumberland, Centre and
25 Delaware counties, which are staffed by more than 2,924
26 hardworking people who are committed to the support of the
27 agency's public service mission; and

28 WHEREAS, The agency, through the dedication of its employees
29 and the guidance of its bipartisan Board of Directors, has
30 contributed well over \$1 billion in direct public service

1 support for Pennsylvania students and families; and

2 WHEREAS, The agency provides an additional \$90 million in the
3 current fiscal year to supplement the State Grant Program, the
4 Pennsylvania Targeted Industry Program and a new Distance
5 Education Pilot Program, providing for more meaningful grant
6 awards to more Pennsylvania students with financial need; and

7 WHEREAS, The agency celebrates its 50th year of service to
8 the Commonwealth as a premier student aid resource, program
9 administrator, solutions innovator, job creator and public
10 servant; therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives extend its
12 congratulations and sincere appreciation to the Pennsylvania
13 Higher Education Assistance Agency's Board of Directors, work
14 force and management during its 50th year of service to
15 Pennsylvania students, families and taxpayers on behalf of the
16 Commonwealth.