



SENATOR JOHN BONACIC: FIGHTING TO KEEP SUNY AFFORDABLE FOR FAMILIES

Dear Friend:

I was the first in my family to go to college. Education created opportunity for me in business, and later in government. My daughter graduated from SUNY New Paltz. The SUNY schools in our Senate District -- New Paltz, Delhi, and our local community colleges -- present educational opportunities for area residents and create jobs in the region.

Last year, the Legislature diverted tuition, paid by those who attend SUNY, and sent those dollars to pay for other functions of state government. I opposed that move. I believe that taking SUNY tuition and not using it for SUNY amounts to a tax on the students and families who pay tuition.

Now, some are arguing that each SUNY campus should be able to set their own tuition rates -- meaning higher tuition for our families that rely on SUNY. I am opposing that plan. Families rely on SUNY to provide not only a quality college education, but also one that is relatively affordable.

Letting each campus set its own tuition could lead to higher tuition each year. I view a higher cost as an added tax on middle-income New Yorkers who may need SUNY, or want to use SUNY for their children's higher education.

In the coming years, many of our children and grandchildren will make the choice to go to college. Keeping the SUNY system affordable is important, not just today, but also in the future. You can help support keeping tuition affordable for families by answering a few simple questions on the back page.

1. Do you have any member of your immediate family (children or grandchildren) who will be going to college in the next five years? ____ Yes ____ No

2. If you answered yes to question 1, on a scale of 1 - 10, with 1 being not important, and 10 being extremely important, how important is the cost of tuition to you in helping to make the decision which college that person will go to? ____

3. Have you given thought to your child or grandchild attending a SUNY college in the next 5 - 10 years? ____
If so, is there a particular SUNY campus you are interested in? ____ (If yes, name of campus ____)

4. If SUNY tuition were raised to the level of privately-owned colleges, would you still look at SUNY?
____ Yes ____ No ____ I'm not looking at SUNY for myself, my children or grandchildren and do not plan to.

5. If SUNY tuition were raised to the level of privately-owned colleges, would that factor into any decision to leave New York, so you could afford college tuition rates in other states that operate publicly-owned colleges? ____ Yes ____ No

6. New York spends more on Medicaid than any other State in the nation. Would you prefer the State to simply cut spending on public healthcare programs and dedicate those savings to education at either the K - 12 level or the SUNY system?
____ Yes ____ No ____ Cut the healthcare spending and give the money back to taxpayers.

7. If you could spend more money in one academic area of SUNY, what would it be? engineering ____ business ____
teaching ____ math ____ science ____ accounting ____ other ____

Name _____

Address _____


____ City _____ Zip _____

Email _____

If you would like this SUNY survey emailed to you, please email me at bonacic@nysenate.gov with the subject line "SUNY Survey" and I will email you the survey. Otherwise, you can mail this survey back to me at 201 Dolson Avenue, Suite F, Middletown, NY 10940; fax it to me at 845-344-3328; or email it to me at bonacic@nysenate.gov.

I will continue to fight to make sure college is affordable for students and families of our Senate District.

Sincerely,


JOHN J. BONACIC
State Senator



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

JOHN J. BONACIC

42nd Senate District

District Office: 201 Dolson Ave., Suite F, Middletown, NY 10940 Tel: (845) 344-3311

Satellite Office: 111 Main St. Delhi, NY 13753 Tel: (607) 746-6675

Albany Office: 508 Legislative Office Bldg., Albany, NY 12247 Tel: (518) 455-3181

E-Mail: bonacic@nysenate.gov

Website: bonacic.nysenate.gov