

**Resolution Title:** Resolution in Opposition to the College Access and Opportunity Act, H. R. 4283  
**Submitted by:** Professional Staff Congress/CUNY

WHEREAS, Representative Howard McKeon has pledged that he will reintroduce the College Access and Opportunity Act, H. R. 4283, in the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress; and

WHEREAS, H. R. 4283 will be the focus of the debate about the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA); and

WHEREAS, the definition section of H. R. 4283 includes language from the so-called Academic Bill of Rights; and

WHEREAS, 47 higher education associations, including the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, the American Association of Community Colleges, the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, the American Association of Presidents of Independent Colleges and Universities, the Association of American Medical Colleges, and the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, to name a few, have sent a letter to the bill's co-sponsors, Congressmen McKeon and Boehner, stating that H. R. 4283 fails to make good on its promise to enhance college access and affordability; and

WHEREAS, the organizations specifically state that the bill:  
does not increase the maximum Pell award and simply redistributes existing funds across a larger number of institutions;

imposes costly and 'enormous' regulatory and reporting burdens on campuses that will result in higher tuition;

will have an adverse impact on accreditation and transfer of credits in that it 'comes close to making accrediting agencies arms of the Department of Education and to federalizing the transfer of credits;'

moves decision-making and authority on academic matters from the campus to federal bureaucrats; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that NYSUT work with AFT and other higher education associations to ensure modifications and revisions in H.R. 4283 so that the HEA increases financial support to students and institutions and allows greater access to higher education.