



## Women Employed

### Women Employed Proposal to the Monetary Award Program (MAP) Eligibility Task Force

When the MAP Eligibility Task Force was created in Senate Joint Resolution 69, Women Employed was supportive of the initiative. Using the first-come, first-serve model, independent students and students at community colleges—many of them adult women—have been unfairly burdened by early suspension dates, and we recognized the need to change the program in order to better and more fairly serve students. But we also acknowledged that any changes to the program should be strategic—not a simple reallocation of dollars with no basis in policy—and student centered. Without those components, any changes we made would be unjustified.

To implement smart strategy, then, it is our opinion that any proposed changes to the Monetary Award Program (MAP) should include four important principles:

- Promoting college completion while limiting student debt.
- Promoting quality programs and services at MAP-eligible institutions.
- Ensuring that MAP funding goes to students who intend to complete and make a good faith effort to do so.
- Assisting the students who would and could not go to college without MAP funding.

To this end, we propose a model similar to the law recently passed in California, which would make ineligible institutions with more than 40 percent of students taking loans that also had high three-year cohort default rates (above 15.5 percent) or graduation rates below 30 percent. These institutions poorly serve their students, and do not deserve state funding.

In addition, we recommend that we monitor student records to ensure that students who fail out of one institution and move on to another only to fail again, are conditionally restricted from accessing a MAP grant.

Finally, with the savings from these two proposals, we would create a grant that focused on students who are very close to completion, to give them extra financial assistance with their final semester and incentivize completion.

It is Women Employed's hope that the Task Force will consider and ultimately recommend an approach to tackling the principles stated above that proves to be student centered and strategic instead of focusing on sector parity and simple fund reallocation.

*It's up to us.*