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Proposed Changes To Bright Futures Reverses Trend In Improving College-Readiness, Completion Rates, Report Says

~FL CAN recommends that any cuts to the scholarship be done on a graduated scale taking reported family income into consideration~

TAMPA, FL – The Bright Futures Scholarship Program is Florida's most popular and largest student financial aid program. With over a \$3.5 billion budget shortfall, the Florida Legislature has proposed tapping the Bright Futures budget to help cover some of the deficit. However, a new report released today by Florida C.A.N.! says that the current proposals on the table will disproportionately impact Florida's middle and low-income students.

"In such an unprecedented budget year, it is not unreasonable for members of the legislature to seek and grant flexibility where necessary to balance the budget," said Braulio Colón, director of Florida C.A.N.! "However, seeking savings through the current proposals on the table related to Bright Futures will severely impact our middle and low-income students."

The new report suggest that the Florida Legislature revisit their ideas, utilize the data made available in the report, and develop a resolution that (1) identifies program savings, (2) minimizes the financial impact on middle and low-income students, and (3) ensures that all students continue to receive an award for academic merit.

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About Florida College Access Network

Florida College Access Network (formerly ENLACE Florida) engages communities for higher education promoting college-readiness, access, and success for limited-income, first generation, and underrepresented students through research, communication, advocacy, and community support. Our Big Goal is to increase the proportion of working adults in Florida who hold a postsecondary degree or credential to 60% by 2025. For more information, visit www.floridacollegeaccess.org

MEDIA ALERT

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