

Coburn Amendment _____ - Prohibits the federal government from financially discriminating against students who choose to attend a private college or university

The purpose of this amendment is to end the financial penalty imposed on students who would like to attend a private college or university under the District of Columbia College Access Act.

The DC Tuition Assistance Program Unfairly Penalizes Students Who Choose to Attend Private Schools

The District of Columbia Tuition Assistance Program provides scholarships for DC residents to receive “in-state” tuition at higher education institutions throughout the country.

Under the program, scholarships up to \$10,000 per school year (with a cumulative cap of \$50,000) are granted for public university students.

Students receive significantly less if they choose to attend a private school. Scholarships of \$2,500 per school year (with a cumulative cap of \$12,500 per student) are granted for private university students. The private-school tuition grants are restricted to nonprofit institutions.

This is essentially a financial penalty levied on students who attend private schools.

The scholarship program should not discriminate against students who may choose to attend a private college or university. If scholarships are made available to DC students, the amounts should be of equal value, regardless of the private or public status of an educational institution.

Lower Income Students’ Educational Choices Are Being Limited By This Program’s Unfair Discrimination

The District of Columbia Tuition Assistance Program is intended to expand the choices and educational opportunities of DC students.

Yet as a result of the financial penalty that reduces assistance to students that wish to attend a private school, students’ choices are in fact being limited.

Students of lesser means are essentially forced to attend public universities.

This may be one reason why in the 2005-2006 academic year, only 900 students attending private schools received awards under this program while over 3,800 students attending public institutions did.