

Institutional Aid for Undocumented Students

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Issue

Describe the types of institutional aid that undocumented students would have been able to receive from Connecticut public higher education institutions if [Senate Bill 17](#) (2017) had become law.

Summary

[SB 17 \(2017\)](#) allows certain students who lack legal immigration status to qualify for institutional financial aid to attend an in-state public higher education institution, to the extent allowed by federal law, if they also qualify for in-state tuition at the state's public colleges and universities. The bill was reported favorably out of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee and placed on the Senate calendar but did not receive a vote in the chamber.

If [SB 17](#) had become law, undocumented Connecticut resident students would have become eligible for (1) the portion of institutional aid set aside at UConn for need-based aid unrelated to federal programs and (2) all of the institutional aid set-aside at the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCUs) as the aid is all for need-based grants unrelated to federal programs. For FY 17 specifically, undocumented students would have been eligible to access the following amounts of need-based institutional aid set aside from tuition revenues: \$66,381,637 at UConn; \$37,530,714 at the Connecticut State Universities; and \$17,550,824 at the community colleges.

Senate Bill 17

Under this bill, undocumented students who qualify for in-state tuition under state law would also become eligible for institutional aid set aside from tuition revenue by UConn and the CSCUs. Federal law currently bars undocumented students from receiving this aid by deeming people without legal immigration status ineligible for most state and local public benefits, including postsecondary education benefits, unless a state law affirmatively provides for such eligibility ([8 U.S.C. § 1621\(d\)](#)).

Eligible Undocumented Students

To be eligible, undocumented students would have to meet the following criteria:

1. reside in Connecticut (i.e., maintain a continuous and permanent physical presence, except for short, temporary absences);
2. have attended an in-state education institution and have completed at least two years of high school in Connecticut;
3. have graduated from a high school or the equivalent in Connecticut; and
4. be registered as an entering student, or be a student, at UConn, a Connecticut State University, a community-technical college, or Charter Oak State College ([CGS § 10a-29\(9\)](#)).

Additionally, the bill requires undocumented students to file an affidavit with the institution they are attending in order to be eligible for the aid. The affidavit must state that they have either filed an application to legalize their immigration status or will file one as soon as they are eligible. (Existing law already requires students who are not legal immigrants to file such an affidavit to qualify for in-state tuition.)

Institutional Aid

Institutional aid as defined by [SB 17](#) consists of (1) tuition waivers and remissions, (2) grants for educational expenses, and (3) student employment. The aid is funded by tuition revenue set aside by the public higher education institutions and, under existing law, is available to U.S. citizens and certain “eligible noncitizens” (e.g., permanent legal residents).

Existing state law requires UConn, the Connecticut State Universities, and the community-technical colleges to set aside from their tuition revenue an amount that is at least equal to that required by the governing board’s tuition policy (CGS §§ [10a-105\(g\)](#), [10a-99\(f\)](#), and [10a-77\(f\)](#), respectively).

These set-aside funds, commonly referred to as “institutional aid,” may be used to provide tuition waivers, tuition remission, grants for educational expenses, and student employment for enrolled full-time or part-time students.

The bill specifies that it does not require or compel an institution to match the amount of federal student aid that students who are not legal immigrants would receive if they were eligible for federal student aid.

Institutional Aid Available in FY 17

UConn

In FY 17, UConn set aside 17.75% of its net tuition revenue for need-based institutional aid. The aid is offered five ways, with undocumented students being ineligible for two of these five types of aid because they are linked to federal programs. Table 1 lists the types of aid and the amounts set aside for each.

Table 1: UConn’s FY 17 Institutional Aid Set Aside Amounts

| <i>Type of Need-based Aid</i> | <i>FY 17 Amounts Available (\$)</i> |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Available to all students, including undocumented students: | |
| Tuition remission / grant | \$61,018,626 |
| STEM need-based | 3,855,807 |
| Student labor for needy students | 1,507,204 |
| Total available: | \$66,381,637 |
| Unavailable to undocumented students: | |
| Supplemental Educational Opportunity | 301,301 |
| Grant (SEOG) match | 336,583 |
| Work study match | 336,583 |
| Total available: | \$637,884 |

Source: UConn

State Universities

The four Connecticut State Universities set aside, on average, 24% of their net tuition revenue for need-based institutional aid in FY 17. This aid is given in the form of grants, and [SB 17](#) would make undocumented students eligible to access it. Table 2 lists the estimated amounts for each university’s net tuition, institutional aid set aside amount, and tuition percentage that constitutes the set aside.

Table 2: CSUs' FY 17 Institutional Aid Set Aside Amounts

| <i>Institutions</i> | <i>Tuition (\$ net of waivers and contra revenue)</i> | <i>Set Aside Amount (\$)</i> | <i>Tuition Percentage for Set Aside</i> |
|---------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|---|
| Central Connecticut State University | \$54,235,906 | \$12,288,346 | 23% |
| Eastern Connecticut State University | 24,265,853 | 8,656,231 | 36% |
| Southern Connecticut State University | 49,340,048 | 11,272,132 | 23% |
| Western Connecticut State University | 27,479,224 | 5,314,005 | 19% |
| Totals: | \$155,321,031 | \$37,530,714 | 24%* |

*Represents the average set aside percentage for the four universities.

Source: CSCU

Table 3 lists by institution the number of students who received institutional aid, the average award amount received, and the total amount of aid paid by the university in FY 17.

Table 3: CSUs' FY 17 Institutional Aid Awards

| <i>Institutions</i> | <i>Number of Student Award Recipients</i> | <i>Average Award Amount (\$)</i> | <i>Total Aid Paid</i> |
|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Central Connecticut State University | 2,641 | \$2,595 | \$6,853,444.00 |
| Eastern Connecticut State University | 2,291 | 3,726 | 8,537,321.60 |
| Southern Connecticut State University | 2,040 | 2,854 | 5,821,191.35 |
| Western Connecticut State University | 1,622 | 2,762 | 4,479,480.41 |

Source: CSCU

Community Colleges

The 12 regional community-technical colleges set aside, on average, 15% of their net tuition revenue for need-based institutional aid in FY 17. This aid is given in the form of grants, and [SB 17](#) would make undocumented students eligible to access it. Table 4 lists the estimated amounts for each university's net tuition, institutional aid set aside amount, and tuition percentage that constitutes the set aside.

Table 4: Community Colleges' FY 17 Institutional Aid Set Aside Amounts

| <i>Institutions</i> | <i>Tuition (\$ net of waivers and contra revenue)</i> | <i>Set Aside Amount (\$)</i> | <i>Tuition Percentage for Set Aside</i> |
|------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|---|
| Asnuntuck Community College | \$3,693,697 | \$560,530 | 15% |
| Capital Community College | 7,450,550 | 1,176,455 | 16% |
| Gateway Community College | 17,208,437 | 2,383,393 | 14% |
| Housatonic Community College | 13,068,500 | 1,865,062 | 14% |
| Manchester Community College | 15,329,441 | 2,265,591 | 15% |
| Middlesex Community College | 6,343,167 | 1,153,841 | 18% |

Table 4 (continued)

| <i>Institutions</i> | <i>Tuition (\$ net of waivers and contra revenue)</i> | <i>Set Aside Amount (\$)</i> | <i>Tuition Percentage for Set Aside</i> |
|--|---|----------------------------------|---|
| Naugatuck Valley Community College | 15,950,466 | \$2,111,629 | 13% |
| Northwestern Connecticut Community College | 3,042,138 | 466,238 | 15% |
| Norwalk Community College | 14,778,293 | 2,263,559 | 15% |
| Quinebaug Valley Community College | 3,520,836 | 545,357 | 15% |
| Three Rivers Community College | 9,653,097 | 1,368,814 | 14% |
| Tunxis Community College | 8,886,649 | 1,390,355 | 16% |
| Totals: | \$118,925,271 | \$17,550,824 | 15%* |

*Represents the average set aside percentage for the 12 community colleges.

Source: CSCU

Table 5 lists by institution the number of students who received institutional aid, the average award amount received, and the total amount of aid paid by the community college in FY 17.

Table 5: Community Colleges' FY 17 Institutional Aid Awards

| <i>Institutions</i> | <i>Number of Student Award Recipients</i> | <i>Average Award Amount (\$)</i> | <i>Total Aid Paid</i> |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Asnuntuck Community College | 801 | \$704 | \$563,947.85 |
| Capital Community College | 1,510 | 784 | 1,183,325.07 |
| Gateway Community College | 2,467 | 949 | 2,342,161.00 |
| Housatonic Community College | 1,538 | 1,237 | 1,901,855.77 |
| Manchester Community College | 2,515 | 901 | 2,266,805.49 |
| Middlesex Community College | 465 | 1,419 | 659,783.10 |
| Naugatuck Valley Community College | 2,235 | 977 | 2,184,218.00 |
| Northwestern Connecticut Community College | 292 | 1,215 | 354,701.36 |
| Norwalk Community College | 1,351 | 1,423 | 1,922,806.00 |
| Quinebaug Valley Community College | 630 | 751 | 473,105.59 |
| Three Rivers Community College | 967 | 1,285 | 1,242,664.21 |
| Tunxis Community College | 1,800 | 772 | 1,390,280.90 |

Source: CSCU

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