



NEW JERSEY

# Association of State Colleges and Universities

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## **Senate Budget & Appropriations Committee December 15, 2016 Senate Bill No. 2621**

The state colleges and universities support the goal of this legislation to help students extend their resources and accelerate their time to degree. We oppose this legislation, however, because it would cause students to reduce the resources they have for traditional study in the fall and spring semesters, thereby potentially jeopardizing their ability to afford their education.

Section 1.a of the bill would allow a student to “elect to use a portion of a tuition aid grant award to enroll in the summer session that follows the academic year.” Diminishing the amount available to cover tuition during one part of the academic calendar to pay for study during another part of the academic calendar does not keep a student’s financial-aid resources whole. TAG awards to the students at the state colleges and universities already lag behind the true cost of their education because of the formula used to distribute TAG. Eroding those resources further, to allow study in the summer, may be self-defeating from some students.

Federal Pell grants are not available for students to study in the summer. Year-round Pell Grant eligibility, which allowed students to use Pell grants during summer sessions, was eliminated by Congress in 2011.

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