

## ARTICLE ON STUDENT AID

In February, the Administration proposed substantial changes in federal aid to higher education, which, if enacted would have meant the denial of educational opportunities to a vast number of students in Massachusetts and throughout the nation.

One of the most disturbing proposals by the Administration was the effort to eliminate graduate and professional students from the Guaranteed Student Loan Program. On February 10th, I introduced a resolution which opposed the Administration's program. Approximately half of the 1.5 million graduate and professional students in the United States are dependent on Guaranteed Student Loans..

When I introduced this measure, I stated: "Many graduate and professional students are older Americans with families and financial obligations. Many are women who want and need to re-enter the workforce. They should have a change to improve their career options."

The opposition to the Reagan proposals was swift and extensive. Students and parents across the nation let their Representatives know how they felt about this proposition. When the Senate passed the first Budget Resolution, this provision to exclude graduate and professional students was not included. The Senate also excluded the Administration efforts to deny eligibility to students from families earning \$40,000 or more. Current law provides for a financial needs test for families

earning \$30,000 to determine eligibility. Further, the Senate did not eliminate the in-school interest subsidy for GSLs, nor did they increase the origination fee from 5 to 10 percent. I consider this to be an immense victory for the grass roots lobbying effort mounted by parents, students, educators and other interested citizens.

Despite the success of maintaining the integrity of the GSL program, other aid programs were not spared the extensive cuts proposed by the Administration. The Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, the State Student Incentive Grants and the National Direct Student Loan Programs will not be funded in 1983 unless ~~subsequent~~ changes are made in the House version of the budget and subsequently accepted in a House-Senate Conference.

Likewise, Pell Grants and the College work Stude program, ~~which~~ which allows needy students to wlrk on their college campuses will be funded at a substantially reduced rate. Efforts are underway to have portions of these cuts restored.