

FAFSA Bill

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You can take action NOW to stop this bill from creating an additional barrier to graduation for immigrant students. [Senate Bill 463](#) passed the Senate and would require all students to submit the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) in order to receive a high school diploma. The FAFSA is an application to apply for federal aid for college that asks for a Social Security Number and family financial information. Many students and their families are fearful about disclosing such information to the federal government, and many immigrant youth are not eligible for federal financial aid regardless of whether they complete the FAFSA. Given these barriers, students may not be able to claim the diploma they earned simply because they were not able to fill out the FAFSA. While there is a proposed waiver process, it is too cumbersome and would create a significant barrier to graduation for immigrant and LGBTQ students, students who are victims of child abuse, and other vulnerable populations who may not wish to self-disclose their reasons for not wanting to fill out the FAFSA and their family circumstances to school officials. [See additional concerns from MIRC.](#)

The bill has now been assigned to the [House Education Committee](#) and we expect the bill to come up soon. Contact members of the committee to share your concerns - see sample email below.



SAMPLE EMAIL - click the Google mail icon to open the draft in Gmail

****Don't forget to edit the draft to fill in your name, city, and zip code!****

To	mattkoleszar@house.mi.gov , JaimeChurches@house.mi.gov , JaimeGreene@house.mi.gov , nateshannon@house.mi.gov , ReginaWeiss@house.mi.gov , caglanville@house.mi.gov , JenniferConlin@house.mi.gov , KimberlyEdwards@house.mi.gov , DylanWegela@house.mi.gov , maixiong@house.mi.gov , GregMarkkanen@house.mi.gov , BradPaquette@house.mi.gov , PaulineWendzel@house.mi.gov , GinaJohnsen@house.mi.gov
Cc	
Bcc	
Subject	Please Oppose FAFSA Bill

Dear members of the House Education Committee,

My name is [First Name Last Name], and I am a resident of [City/Township] [ZIP]. I am also an educator who works closely with immigrant students and other vulnerable families

I am writing to urge you to oppose the FAFSA Bill ([SB 463](#)) expected to come before the House Education Committee. If passed, this bill would unnecessarily burden vulnerable high school students and prevent them from receiving their high school diplomas.

We have seen how recent changes to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form have made it much more difficult for students from immigrant families to successfully submit their FAFSA. Additionally, with the change in federal administrations, many more immigrant families will be afraid to submit their information.

The waiver process is far too cumbersome and requires students to self-identify and share private information about their immigration status or other sensitive topics in potentially unsafe school settings. It would create a significant barrier to graduation for immigrant and LGBTQ students, students who are victims of child abuse, and other vulnerable populations. Students from immigrant families may perceive submitting the FAFSA as a threat to their security or that of their family members, and may be forced to choose their family's safety over graduation.

By opposing this bill, you can help ensure Michigan does not create significant barriers to graduation for vulnerable high school seniors.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
[First Name Last Name]
