



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

June 14, 2017

Secretary Kenneth W. Detzner
Secretary of State
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

2017 JUN 14 PM 5:00
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

FILED

Dear Secretary Detzner:

By the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Florida, under the provisions of Article III, Section 8, of the Constitution of Florida, I do hereby veto and transmit my objections to Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 374, enacted during the 119th Session of the Legislature of Florida, during the Regular Session of 2017 and entitled:

An act relating to postsecondary education...

State and community colleges have played a tremendous role in my life and the lives of countless Florida families, providing them with an opportunity to succeed. When I was growing up, my family struggled to make ends meet. Before my service in the Navy, I was able to attend community college while my wife, Ann, worked to support us. After I returned from serving in the Navy, Ann was also able to continue her education at our local community college.

Each year, hundreds of thousands of students attend one of Florida's 28 state colleges, which are consistently rated amongst the best in the country for providing affordable access to higher education. For the last four years, we have held the line on tuition, keeping higher education affordable for all Florida families. Additionally, our State College system, as it currently functions, provides the flexibility and adaptability to respond to our communities' unique education and workforce needs. This legislation impedes the State College System's mission by capping the enrollment level of baccalaureate degrees and unnecessarily increasing red tape. This interference impedes the ability of state colleges to meet the needs of the communities and families they serve. In addition to this legislation, the total budget of the State College System was cut by \$24.7 million during the 2017 Regular Session.

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While the bill makes positive changes to several State University System programs, and there are many provisions I think would be good for students, it does so at the expense of the Florida College System. In fact, the expansion of Bright Futures Scholarships outlined in this Legislation will still occur in Fiscal Year 2017-2018. Because this important expansion currently exists in the budget and proviso language in SB 2500, Florida's students will still benefit from this critical program. I urge the Legislature to pass legislation that revisits these issues and expands Bright Future Scholarships permanently while recognizing the importance of both our state colleges and universities in the 2018 Legislative Session.

For the reasons stated above, I withhold my approval of Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 374, and do hereby veto the same.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "RS", written over the word "Sincerely".

Rick Scott
Governor