

## **The Legislative Program for the 105<sup>th</sup> Congress (adopted July 1998 by the Representative Assembly) - Excerpts**

### **Collective Bargaining**

NEA supports a federal statute that would guarantee meaningful collective bargaining rights to the employees of public schools, colleges, universities, and other postsecondary institutions. This statute should allow for the continued operation of state statutes that meet federally established minimum standards. The federal statute should, in addition, assure that employees will not be denied bargaining rights solely because they participate in a site-based decision-making program, a faculty senate, or other system of collegial governance.

### **Postsecondary Education**

#### **NEA supports:**

- providing financial assistance sufficient to enable all students to pay for college tuition, textbooks, and appropriate expenses, and to allow all students to remain in college, provided they are making satisfactory progress;
- emphasizing needs-based financial aid through grants, rather than loans;
- full federal funding of financial assistance programs including, but not limited to, Pell Grants;
- direct student loans for college and university students;
- a one-year grace period before students are required to begin repayment of student loans;
- loan forgiveness for students who become educational employees in public education institutions;
- reduction in the student loan default rate without undue limitation on access to postsecondary education for any qualified student;
- assurance of equality of educational opportunity;
- diversity in enrollments through programs that facilitate minority students' entrance into and completion of postsecondary education;
- federal programs, including provision of resources for instruction, research, and library materials, that enhance effectiveness of and advance excellence in two- and four-year postsecondary education institutions;
- federal programs to enhance educational programs and improve student performance in all curricular areas;
- promotion of research and the development of knowledge, including access by students to advanced technological resources and teaching;
- assurance of equal treatment for two- and four-year institutions;
- assurance of the welfare, economic security, and professional development of all postsecondary members.

**NEA opposes**

- the use of withdrawal or incomplete grades as a basis for reducing or eliminating financial assistance to students who must interrupt their education for justifiable reasons;
- denying federal student aid funds to college students based on their enrollment in appropriate remedial courses.