

**PERALTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT  
RESOLUTION 11/12-41  
SUPPORT FOR DELAY OF THE  
ABILITY TO BENEFIT PELL GRANT LEGISLATION**

**WHEREAS**, last year the United States Congress amended the Pell grant program by eliminating the eligibility of Ability to Benefit (ATB) students to receive Pell awards, effective July 1, 2012, and

**WHEREAS**, due to this provision of law it is estimated that between 65,000 and 82,000 students will be denied Pell grant assistance for their post-secondary education, and

**WHEREAS**, the vast majority of those students would enroll in community colleges, and

**WHEREAS**, it is a fundamental mission of community colleges to provide low skill students a pathway to adult education and occupational training, and

**WHEREAS**, a U.S. Department of Education study reported that students that qualified for ATB assistance by completing 6 credit hours completed almost as many credits and had a higher grade point average as students with high school diplomas, and

**WHEREAS**, the Peralta Community College District has been a national leader in successfully educating ATB students, through the Maximum Achievement Project at Merritt College, which was recognized by U.S. Education Secretary Duncan, and

**WHEREAS**, the cost of a one year delay in the ATB eligibility provision is only \$18 million, and

**WHEREAS**, Congress is currently considering legislation to delay for one year the interest rate increase on federal student loan programs.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Governing Board of the Peralta Community College District strongly encourages Congress to delay the implementation of the ATB eligibility provision for one year as part of the interest rate legislation.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Governing Board of the Peralta Community College District strongly encourages Congress to permanently repeal the ATB provision as quickly as possible.

Approved by unanimous Board vote on May 8, 2012, unless the meeting minutes reflect otherwise.



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Wise E. Allen  
Chancellor and Board Secretary