

PROPOSED

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO REJECT SENATE BILL 86 AND ANY OTHER ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE SUBJECT MATTER LIMITATIONS ON BRIGHT FUTURES AND SIMILAR SCHOLARSHIPS OR TO PENALIZE STUDENTS FOR DUAL ENROLLMENT OR ADVANCED STUDY WHILE IN HIGH SCHOOL; DIRECTING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO PROVIDE A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE OFFICIALS DESIGNATED HEREIN; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

(Sponsored by Commissioner Barbara Sharief)

WHEREAS, for the academic year 2019-2020, more than 110,000 Florida students received Florida Bright Futures scholarships totaling more than \$618 million in disbursed funds;

WHEREAS, Bright Futures scholarships and similar scholarships, such as the Florida Academic Scholars award and the Florida Medallion Scholars award, enable promising young scholars to pursue their academic dreams and achieve their potential in a wide array of careers and vocations;

WHEREAS, every year more than 60,000 students participate in Florida's dual enrollment program, providing these students a head start on a college degree;

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 86 ("SB 86"), introduced by Senator Dennis Baxley, would subject a student's receipt of Bright Futures and similar scholarships to reduced limits based upon the student's chosen area of study;

1 WHEREAS, SB 86 would limit the availability of scholarship funds to 60 credit
2 hours per student unless the student is enrolled in a career certificate and undergraduate
3 or graduate degree program on an approved list developed annually by the State
4 University System of Florida Board of Governors and the State Board of Education;

5 WHEREAS, SB 86 would also penalize students who participate in dual enrollment
6 or advanced placement opportunities while in high school by reducing the students' later
7 eligibility for Bright Futures and similar scholarships;

8 WHEREAS, the proposed legislation would require that a student's aid package
9 be reevaluated each semester, including for current college students receiving Bright
10 Futures scholarships, placing the student's continued education in jeopardy
11 every semester;

12 WHEREAS, the opportunity for students to pursue their chosen career goals and
13 the ability to obtain state assistance in funding the associated certificate and degree
14 programs are critically important to the future of Broward County and the State of Florida;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, the Broward County Board of County Commissioners strongly
17 opposes any attempt to limit the availability of Bright Futures and similar scholarships,

18 NOW, THEREFORE,

19 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
20 BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA:

21 Section 1. The Broward County Board of County Commissioners ("Board")
22 urges the Florida Legislature to reject House Bill 86 and any attempt, through the denial
23 of financial assistance, to limit the ability of Florida students to pursue their chosen career
24 goals by pursuing the appropriate certificate and degree programs.

