

## SENATE RESOLUTION #2077

**Title:** Call for Revocation of Certain Provisions of the Higher Education Act

**Date:** March 29, 2004

**Authors:** Laramie Progressive Action Collective

**Sponsors:** Senators Carothers, Chollak, Granum, Hedderman, Hunter, Owens, Rising, Shah

1. WHEREAS, a provision in the Higher Education Act of 1998 mandates that
2. students convicted of any drug-related offense without regard to the nature of
3. the offense or the offender be denied eligibility for student financial aid for
4. periods ranging from one year to "indefinite;" and
5. WHEREAS, no other class of offender including those convicted of rape or
6. other offenses faces similar restriction on student financial aid eligibility; and
7. WHEREAS, this provision will, by its very nature, impact primarily students
8. of low to moderate economic means; and
9. WHEREAS, this provision will also have a discriminatory impact on people
10. of color, as their communities are disproportionately targeted for enforcement
11. of the drug laws (for example, see Addendum A); and
12. WHEREAS, to the extent that the federal government involves itself in
13. education, it should be focused on making it easier, not more difficult, for
14. citizens to educate themselves; and
15. WHEREAS, education is an important factor in allowing people to become
16. more productive, well-rounded citizens.
17. THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Associated Students of the University of
18. Wyoming that we issue upon the United States Congress to overturn that

19. section of the Higher Education Act that denies or delays access
20. to student financial aid based upon convictions for drug-related offenses.

**Referred to:** Student Issues Committee

**Date of Passage:** April 20, 2004

**Signed:** Sabrina T. Baig  
(ASUW Chairperson)

**“Being enacted on \_\_\_\_\_, I do hereby sign my name hereto**

**and approve this Senate action.”**

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**ASUW President**

Addendum A to Senate Resolution #2077

According to “Young Black Americans and the Criminal Justice System: Five Years Later”, a report published by the NGO The Sentencing Project; African Americans, who comprise 12% of the Nation’s population and 13% of drug users, make up 55% of those convicted of drug offenses.