

American Friends Service Committee

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8 REASONS TO HATE 8

Sixth in a series

<http://www.afsc.net/ctsosaw.html>

Not a scholarship but a loan program

Issue 8 is misnamed. It's not a "scholarship" program. For a majority of likely recipients, funds received will need to be paid back. That makes it a loan.

Issue 8 language is clear, "Akron resident students who accept a Scholarship and live or work in Akron for 30 years after graduation will have no additional scholarship repayment obligation beyond their normal City of Akron income taxes. If a scholarship recipient no longer lives or works in Akron after graduating or leaving school, the recipient will be required to repay the scholarship."

This is not the 1920's and Akron is not Mayberry – people move. Our world is increasingly interconnected. People are drawn to where there is work and amenities – regardless of county, state or country.

It's hard to believe a majority of graduates from Akron area high schools eligible for funds if Issue 8 passes will be living or working in Akron three decades from now. If not, a majority of students will be paying back some, if not all, of whatever financial assistance they receive. For those students, therefore, the financial assistance is not a grant ("scholarship") but a loan.

Framing Issue 8 as a "scholarship" is flat-out misleading if a majority of recipients will likely have to repay some, if not all, funds. The program should be called what it is – a loan.

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