STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

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November 1, 2017

Senator Jeb Bradley, Chairman
Health and Human Service Oversight Committee
Room 302, State House
Concord, NH 03301

Representative Kimberly Rice, Chairman
Children and Family Law Committee
Room 206, Legislative Office Building
Concord, NH 03301

Re: Report on the status of the tuition waiver program for foster and adopted children

Dear Senator Bradley and Representative Rice,

As you may recall, SB 168 (2007) (Chapter Laws 2007, 366:1) established a tuition waiver program for foster and adopted children. That legislation requires the Department to report annually to the Health and Human Services Oversight Committee and to the Children and Family Law Committee on the status of the program. Accordingly, please accept the following as the Division's report on the current status of the program:

The University System of New Hampshire and the Community College System of New Hampshire continued to manage the Tuition Waiver program along with DCYF. This resulted in the continuation of the changes made in 2014 including; 1) Only youth that had already applied to college were able to apply for a waiver; 2) Notarization was no longer required as part of the application; 3) Applications were accepted on a rolling basis with youth who submitted their applications by March 15th given priority status; 4) DCYF sent applications to the college systems at regular intervals as they were being certified instead of waiting to send them all out at the end of the application process; 5) Returning waiver recipients still in college and in good academic standing were approved for a waiver right away and 6) DCYF established a pool of prioritized alternate waiver candidates to fill waiver slots that may become open for youth who have a change in circumstances.

The application process started in January of 2017 with emails being sent out to potential applicants along with the application being posted on the DCYF website and the websites of participating schools. The New Hampshire Higher Education Assistance Foundation (NHHEAF) Center for College Planning continued to be a resource for foster care youth, caregivers and DCYF who had questions about understanding how to navigate the college admissions, application and financial aid process. NHHEAF provided quarterly presentations to youth at SYSC and helped in the creation of a college focused workshop at the DCYF youth summit.

The aforementioned changes to the waiver application and selection process continued to be effective as there were fifty three applicants, an increase of nine from the year before. The waivers were provided to the youth with the greatest level of financial need. Thirty two students did not receive a waiver for these reasons: 1) They were able to access adequate financial resources from alternative sources; 2) They opted not to attend college or not attend a NH state school or 3) The lack of additional waiver slots as the program is capped at 20 per year. *One waiver slot opened up prior to the start of the academic year and it was filled by another student.

DCYF and the USNH and Community College systems have continued to maintain regular contact in support of the tuition waiver program. This has included continuing to review and update the administrative rules that previously expired and establishing a method through which educational outcomes for past waiver recipients can be obtained.

A complete breakdown of the applicants and recipients of the Tuition Waiver Program for Foster and Adopted Children Program is available on pages 3-6 of this document.

As always, please feel free to contact me with any additional questions you may have regarding the status or implementation of this program.

Very truly yours,

Joseph E. Ribsam, Jr.
Director

Cc Representative Mary Stewart Gile
Beth Doiron, Community College System of NH
Kara-Lee Bean, University System of NH

Number of Students who applied for Waiver	Number of Students who received and used the Waiver	Number of students who did not receive the Waiver	Reasons for students to not receive the Waiver
2008 Spring Semester			
11	4	7	♦ 3 were no longer enrolled in college ♦ 2 had sufficient financial assistance from grants or scholarships ♦ 2 did not complete the Federal Financial Application for Student Assistance (FAFSA) as required by the Postsecondary Education Commission.
2008-2009 Fall/Spring Semesters			
34	13 (3 for Spring '09 Semester only.)	21	♦ 7 were no longer enrolled in college ♦ 9 had sufficient financial assistance from grants or scholarships ♦ 2 did not complete the Federal Financial Application for Student Assistance (FASFA)* ♦ 2 missed the deadline for completing the application ♦ 1 was already 23 at the time of application
2009-2010 Fall/Spring Semesters			
56	20	36	While a complete breakdown regarding those who did not receive the waiver is unavailable the majority of non-recipients were determined by the college to which they applied, to be missing required financial documentation.
2010-2011 Fall/Spring Semesters			
53	20*	33	The waivers were provided to the youth with the greatest level of financial need. Other reasons for a youth not to receive the waiver included being able to access adequate financial resources from other sources, opting not to attend college or not attend a NH state school or being determined by the college to which they applied, to be missing required financial documentation. *Two students dropped out of college after the semester started. These waiver slots will be filled for the spring of 2011 through an application process currently underway.

Number of Students that applied for Waiver	Number of Students that received and used the Waiver	Number of students that did not receive the Waiver	Reasons for students to not receive the Waiver
2011-2012 Fall/Spring Semesters			
38	20*	18	The waivers were provided to the youth with the greatest level of financial need. Other reasons for a youth not to receive the waiver included being able to access adequate financial resources from other sources or opting not to attend college or not attend a NH state school. *One student is scheduled to graduate in December of this year. This will create a waiver slot for the Spring semester that will be awarded to one of the 18 youth who had applied but did not receive a waiver.
2012-2013 Fall/Spring Semesters			
35	20*	15	The waivers were provided to the youth with the greatest level of financial need. Other reasons for a youth not to receive the waiver included being able to access adequate financial resources from other sources or opting not to attend college or not attend a NH state school. *One student is scheduled to graduate in December of this year and another student has dropped out. This has created two waiver slots for the Spring semester that will be awarded to one of the 15 youth who had applied but did not receive a waiver.
2013-2014 Fall/Spring Semesters			
38	20*	18	The waivers were provided to the youth with the greatest level of financial need. Other reasons for a youth not to receive the waiver included being able to access adequate financial resources from other sources or opting not to attend college or not attend a NH state school. *Three waiver recipients did not utilize the waiver either because they decided not to attend college or were not full time students, which is a requirement. The three slots were filled by selecting new recipients from a pool of alternate candidates.

Number of Students that applied for Waiver	Number of Students that received and used the Waiver	Number of students that did not receive the Waiver	Reasons for students to not receive the Waiver
2014-2015 Fall/Spring Semesters			
40	20*	20	The waivers were provided to the youth with the greatest level of financial need. Other reasons for a youth not to receive the waiver included being able to access adequate financial resources from other sources or opting not to attend college or not attend a NH state school. *Three waiver recipients did not utilize the waiver either because they decided not to attend college or were not full time students, which is a requirement. The three open slots were subsequently filled by other applicants.
2015-2016 Fall/Spring Semesters			
43	20*	23	The waivers were provided to the youth with the greatest level of financial need. Other reasons for a youth not to receive the waiver included being able to access adequate financial resources from other sources or opting not to attend college or not attend a NH state school. *Five waiver recipients did not utilize the waiver either because they decided not to attend college or were not full time students, which is a requirement. The five open slots were subsequently filled by other applicants.
2016-2017 Fall/Spring Semesters			
44	22*	22	The waivers were provided to the youth with the greatest level of financial need. Other reasons for a youth not to receive the waiver included being able to access adequate financial resources from other sources or opting not to attend college or not attend a NH state school. *Four students are splitting two waiver slots. This is due to one student graduating early and another student opting not to start college until the spring semester.
2017-2018 Fall/Spring Semesters			
53	21*	32	The waivers were provided to the youth with the greatest level of financial need. Other reasons for a youth not to receive the waiver included being able to access adequate financial resources from other sources, opting not to attend college or not attend a NH state school and the lack of additional waiver slots as the program is

			capped at 20 per year. *One student awarded the waiver choose not to attend school so that slot was filled by another student.