

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statement by
BRAULIO COLÓN, Executive Director for Florida College Access Network,
on the proposed [HB 49](#) - Employment and Curfew of Minors

"Florida has adopted a goal of increasing the percentage of Florida residents who hold a high-value postsecondary certificate or degree to 60% by the year 2030. To reach this workforce education goal, more students need to be prepared to attain education after high school. This means Florida should be developing policies that support and incentivize students to attend school, do well while they are at school, and ensure they have the supports necessary to continue their education after high school."

"A policy that removes work hour restrictions for minors 16 and 17 years-of-age, allowing them to work the same number of hours as a person who is 18 years-of-age or older, without guardrails to ensure school attendance and academic progress is short-sighted and at odds with Florida's forward-thinking workforce education goal. It could incentivize students, many likely lower-income, to spend less time in school, less time studying, and less time preparing for education after high school. These are critical years in an individual's life, and we should continue to safeguard our children with education being a priority."

About Florida College Access Network

Florida College Access Network (FCAN) is Florida's collaborative network committed to ensuring all Floridians have the opportunity to achieve an education beyond high school and a rewarding career. We envision a Florida working together where education is the pathway to economic mobility for all.

A nonpartisan organization, FCAN strives to expand knowledge of research, data, policies, and practices that impact postsecondary access and attainment in Florida. For more information, visit www.floridacollegeaccess.org.

FCAN is a statewide independent organization hosted by the University of South Florida (USF). The statements and positions presented are those of FCAN and are not made on behalf of the USF Board of Trustees or intended in any way to be representative of USF.

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