

I, Joshua Cam, support Proposed H.B. No. 5109 AN ACT PROHIBITING GRADUATION FEES AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION. As a student from a public institution, my assumption for paying my tuition or fees prior to graduation is that I am given my degree after completion of my handwork, hence I have paid thousands for it already. Charging a student to graduate sounds arbitrary from a PUBLIC standpoint, but from a non-profit, or for-profit standpoint, I can see how or why this would make sense. However, since the CSCU's are state funded, this payment should not find its way into our tuition and fees regardless. As well as, if we're all attending "Zoom University", why should I make a payment to my school's office of graduation, or any other similar departments, when our ceremonies will be conducted virtually? Is it the paper I'm paying for? Or maybe it's the ink? Nevertheless, this sounds like a minor fee the BOR or any similar entities are imposing on students to afloat from their self-causing deficit. Don't bring a student's pockets into the conversation of them receiving their degree and certificate. Find this money elsewhere in the STATE, but not from us GRADUATES. Students already are concerned with making loan payments after their 6-month grace period. Why dangle their degree above them when they've already paid for that piece of paper for 4 years, or more. So, what if I don't pay this "Graduate Fee"? Will, the CSCU and BOR will hold my degree hostage, or for better words, ransom, if then?