SAH Signs Joint Statement Opposing US Proposal to Tax Tuition Waivers

(CHICAGO) November 28, 2017 – Today the Society of Architectural Historians, along with more than 30 other learned societies, issued a joint statement in opposition to the proposal to tax graduate school tuition waivers as income, a provision included in the tax reform bill recently passed by the US House of Representatives.

The statement reads as follows:

> We, the undersigned organizations, stand together in opposition to the proposal to tax graduate school tuition waivers as income, a provision included in the tax reform bill recently passed by the US House of Representatives.
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> As reported by the ,
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>> Nationwide, about 55 percent of all graduate students had adjusted gross incomes of $20,000 or less... and nearly 87 greatest impact on those groups already underrepresented in higher education.
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>> The provision would also likely force graduate schools to reduce the number of students they admit, so that they can compensate for increased tax liability with increased financial assistance to students in their programs. Reducing the number of students in graduate schools would have devastating effects across higher education and beyond: there would be fewer instructors to teach undergraduates and fewer researchers to pursue new breakthroughs that transform every aspect of American society.
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>> We call on Members of Congress to reject this proposal and stand up for the future of American higher education. We further urge the members of our organizations to contact their Members of Congress and encourage them to act to ensure tuition waivers remain tax-free.
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>> African Studies Association
>> American Academy of Religion
>> American Anthropological Association
>> American Association of Geographers
>> American Comparative Literature Association
>> American Folklore Society
>> American Historical Association
>> American Musicological Society
>> American Philosophical Association
>> American Society for Environmental History
>> American Sociological Association

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