

## **P-04-610 Reverse the cuts to hardship funds in Universities**

The hardship fund given to Universities by the Welsh government, the Financial Contingency Fund, has been cut for 2014/15. We believe this to be a damaging decision and call on the Welsh government to reverse the cuts immediately. This vital fund provided financial support to thousands of students who found themselves in difficulty mid-way through the year, and with no other means to support themselves. Without this fund, many students will be unable to afford to study, entrenching social inequalities in Wales' education system. The announcement that the Fund is to be cut also breaks a promise Assembly members made to students in 2011 whereby they signed an NUS Wales pledge not to cut the Fund. We, the undersigned, want the Welsh Government to know that we will not accept broken promises and further cuts to our education system.

### **Additional information**

Small businesses form the backbone of our Town Centres and High Streets. In order that business recovery and start up is supported, and the deterioration in our towns and communities is arrested, this matter is urgent.

**Petitioner:** Beth Button/ NUS Wales

**First considered by the Committee:** 9 December 2014

**Number of Signatures: 134**