

MILWAUKEE AREA LABOR COUNCIL

American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations

SERVING MILWAUKEE, OZAUKEE AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES

February 28, 2024

Dear Esteemed Members of the Common Council,

The Milwaukee Area Labor Council is writing to share concerns about the proposed zoning change for the Arizona College of Nursing to establish itself in the City of Milwaukee.

Our opinion is that the residents of Milwaukee would be best served if the Milwaukee Common Council rejects this zoning change request that will come before the ZND Committee.

For-profit colleges have been revealed to engage Black and Latino students and then leave them with debt and no degree. For instance, a study by the Higher Education Trust found: "They [for-profit colleges] enroll students in high-cost degree programs that have little chance of leading to high-paying careers, and saddle the most vulnerable students with more debt than they could reasonably manage to pay off, even if they do graduate."¹

Facts shared with us by the Committee for Equity in Nursing Education are cause for concern.

- Arizona College of Nursing makes misleading claims that remind us of those made by other for-profit colleges such as Everest College. That predatory business closed their Milwaukee location, leaving thousands of Milwaukee low-income students with student debt but no degree.²
- Clinical instruction at existing healthcare facilities is required for nursing degrees. Of the potential clinical sites claimed by Arizona College of Nursing, 18 of the 29 (62%) are not in the City of Milwaukee and two sites listed are as far away as Janesville and Watertown. This does not seem like a plan that will well-serve Milwaukee students.³

The Milwaukee Area Labor Council respects the views of our members in the healthcare and education fields. We join our voice to the 800 Milwaukee citizens and leaders that have signed a petition opposing this zoning change to establish another for-profit educational institution here in Milwaukee. Milwaukee has many venerable options for those wishing to pursue a career in nursing.

Sincerely,



Pam Fendt, President
Milwaukee Area Labor Council

EM/OPEIU9,AFLCIO

¹ https://edtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Subprime_report_1.pdf

² <https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/education/2022/08/11/decade-after-everest-college-closed-milwaukee-students-struggle/10062688002/>

³ <https://dsps.wi.gov/Documents/BoardCouncils/NUR/20220414NUROpenSession.pdf>, page 22.

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