



Contact: David Lerner (212) 260-5000

**STANLEY ARONOWITZ URGES GOVERNOR TO SIGN
IMMIGRANT TUITION BILL**

Green Party Candidate for Governor Calls on Pataki to Rescind Discriminatory Tuition Hike for Undocumented Immigrant Students at CUNY and SUNY

New York, July 24th, 2002 – Governor Pataki should immediately sign into law the *Immigrant Tuition Bill* enabling undocumented immigrant students who attend City and State Universities to register in time for the fall semester, said Green Party candidate for Governor, Stanley Aronowitz.

The bill, which has passed by the Senate and the Assembly and has remained unsigned on Governor Pataki's desk for several weeks, would enable the students to pay in-state tuition rather than the prohibitively expensive out-of-state rates. The bill was drafted in response to an advisory issued by the General Counsel of CUNY in the wake of 9/11 mandating that the immigrant students should pay out-of-state tuition rates. Failure to act would mean many students would be forced to drop their classes.

“For the Governor to delay signing this bill – a bill he committed to support and which has the support of leading Senate and Assembly Republicans, the University Faculty Senate and the Professional Staff Congress of CUNY – is for the Governor to send the message that he is unconcerned about the value of educating hard-working, tax-paying immigrant students,” Aronowitz said.

“No one can possibly doubt that society will only benefit from a better-educated immigrant community,” he added, noting that the tuition hike was instituted by fiat after September 11th and appeared designed to punish all immigrants for the terrorist attack.

“The tuition increase was discriminatory and unless rectified it will prove counter-productive,” he said. “There is no logical reason to deny these students, who are living here and not going anywhere, the same tuition for their education that others who live in New York receive. Pataki should stick to his word and sign the bill now.”

Stanley Aronowitz, sociology professor, labor activist, author and cultural critic, won the Green Party designation for governor with over 70% of the vote at the party's convention in Ithaca on May 25. Aronowitz and the Greens offer New York voters a broad vision of radical democracy that combines opposition to corporate power and the plutocratic

corruption of politics with commitment to a sustainable environment, racial equality, feminism, gay liberation, and individual freedom. Aronowitz plans an intensive grass roots campaign that will raise the serious economic, social and ecological issues facing the people of New York State—issues that the Democrats and Republicans have consistently failed to engage.

For more information on the Campaign visit: www.stanleyaronowitz.org. **To book an interview with the candidate, call David Lerner at (212) 260-5000.**