

Students support the introduction of incompatibility between teaching staff and criminal convicts

The **National Alliance of Student Organizations in Romania (ANOSR)** supports the **establishment of incompatibility** between **criminally convicted persons and the position of teacher** in secondary and higher education institutions, through the Legislative Proposal for amending and supplementing the **Law of National Education no. 1/ 2011**, registered in the Romanian Senate with **no. L244/ 2020**.

The draft law proposes the prohibition of persons that were definitively convicted of custodial sentences for crimes committed with intent, to hold the position of teacher, teaching assistant, or a position of leadership, guidance and control, until the intervention of a situation that would remove the consequences of conviction. It was adopted by the Chamber of Deputies and submitted to the Senate on April 23rd. On the 5th of May, it is due to be debated by the Commission of education, science, youth and sports within the Romanian Senate.

Over the past years, **ANOSR** has advocated for the right of students to develop both professionally and personally in a **clean university environment**, and in accordance with the values system in our society. ANOSR's actions in this regard include **efforts to combat plagiarism in universities, and to support the reintroduction of incompatibility between a position of public dignity and leadership at national or local level (central public authorities, local administration and political parties) and a leadership position at university level**.

The legislative proposal L244/ 2020 **contributes to the concept of clean universities**, in which **academic integrity** is a reality and a normality, and not just a desideratum. The teaching profession implies a huge **responsibility** towards students, towards the future of the Romanian society. **Schools and universities** represent the fundamental institutions for the development of active, autonomous and responsible citizens. Within these institutions, teachers are not only a landmark in the study of various subjects, but also a reference of **professional prestige and moral authority**. The position of teacher is no less important for the future of this state than the public positions involving state authorities, therefore people holding these positions should honor the values of the society.

Even though we are crossing difficult times from many perspectives, it is at the utmost importance to **make impactful decisions for our future and the society**. Thus, we support the legislative initiative L244/ 2020, which proposes the establishment of incompatibility between criminally convicted persons and the position of teacher in secondary and higher education institutions and **we appeal the members of the Romanian Parliament to approve this law**.

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 facebook.com/anosr.ro

 office@anosr.ro

 www.anosr.ro

 Calea Plevnei nr. 61,
camera 12-13, sector 1,
București, 010223