

## Republican College Agenda = Anti-student

- ✓ **ALLOWS COLLEGE TUITION TO SOAR UN-CHECKED**
- ✓ **FORCES STUDENTS TO PAY MORE FOR COLLEGE LOANS**
- ✓ **FREEZES COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS**
- ✓ **RAISES TAXES ON STUDENTS**

✓ **President Bush Breaks His Promise to Raise the Maximum College Scholarship, or Pell Grant, to \$5,100.** While campaigning in 2000, President Bush pledged to make college more affordable and accessible by increasing the maximum Pell Grant for college freshman to \$5,100. He has yet to make good on his promise. Instead, Bush froze the maximum Pell Grant at \$4,050 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> straight year, despite the fact that last year's maximum grant was worth \$500 less, in real terms, than the maximum grant almost 30 years ago.

✓ **President Bush Allows College Tuition to Soar Un-checked, Making College More Expensive for Students and Their Families.** The weak economy, regressive tax cuts for the wealthy, and federal budget cuts have devastated state budgets. This has pushed higher prices onto college students, more than 75 percent of whom attend public colleges and universities. In the past year alone, tuition has increased an average 14% at 2 and 4-year public institutions, and 6% at 4-year private schools. President Bush responded by: cutting or freezing student aid; and, levying new taxes on students.

✓ **Republicans Back Bankers' Plan to Make College Loans More Expensive.** Several big banks have proposed eliminating the loan consolidation benefit that allows student borrowers to lock in low fixed rate on their loans. According to the Congressional Research Service (CRS), the big banks' plan would force the typical student borrower to pay an additional \$5,500 over the life of their loan.

✓ **President Bush and the Republicans Deny College Opportunities to Thousands of Students.** The President has failed to fully eliminate the unfair drug question on federal student application forms. Despite proposing to modify this provision in his latest budget, students continue to face 'double jeopardy'—allowing them to be punished for an offense by both the court and then again when student aid is denied. President Bush fails to repeal this harmful provision, paying lip service to students and denying them the opportunity to reform.

✓ **President Bush Increases Taxes on College Loans.** The Bush Budget forces a tax on student loans that would charge students an additional \$3.8 billion dollars over the next ten years.

✓ **President Bush Cut Pell Grants for 84,000 students.** In 2003, the Bush Administration made revisions to financial aid eligibility that would have eliminated Pell Grants for 84,000 students, and reduced college aid to thousands more students. A Democratic amendment to the 2004 Education Appropriations bill reversed the Bush cuts, restoring Pell Grants and college aid to students.

**Together these proposals make college more expensive and less accessible for millions of students.**

See Democratic initiatives to make college more affordable at: <http://www.house.gov/georgemiller/higheredinfo.html>

Democratic Staff, Education & the Workforce Committee