



DEMOCRATIC HIGHER EDUCATION PRIORITIES

*Ensuring Access * Making College More Affordable*

Higher education is more important than ever to ensure America's economic prosperity, national security, and health. According to a recent report by the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance, 60 percent of new jobs created between now and 2010 will require post-secondary training.

Just as college has become essential to both an individual's and society's success, college tuition has risen dramatically, causing students to take on high loan debt (\$17,000 on average), to work long hours that interfere with their academic success, or to forgo college altogether.

In response to this crisis in higher education, Democrats on the House Committee on Education and the Workforce will be promoting key new programs and initiatives to increase college access and affordability for all students.

DEMOCRATIC SOLUTIONS TO THE HIGHER EDUCATION CRISIS

- ***The College Affordability and Accountability Act*** would prevent tuition hikes by encouraging renewed state investment in higher education, curbing college costs and providing incentives to keep tuition prices low.
- ***The College Opportunity Act for All*** (H.R. 3180) would:
 - Increase federal scholarship levels—(Pell Grant)—by more than twice current levels;
 - Provide lower cost loans—by allowing student borrowers to refinance high-cost loans, and by repealing the anti-consumer Single Lender Rule, to improve student loan refinancing flexibility;
 - Simplify the student aid application process, by making it easier for students and families to participate in federal student aid programs; and,
 - Significantly increase aid to Minority Serving Institutions, providing critical resources to schools that predominantly serve minority, low-income and first-generation college students.
- ***The 21st Century Job Opportunities Act*** (H.R. 3276) would help put Americans back to work by providing immediate emergency education grants for workers who have been laid off and who require additional education and training to successfully re-enter the workforce.
- **Eliminate unfair lender subsidies.** Abolish a thirty-year old loophole in the student loan program that provides lenders with an artificially high rate of return on certain loans that is subsidized by taxpayers at the cost of \$400 million this year alone.
- **Increase student aid and special support services, including year round housing, for foster care youth** who are pursuing a higher education.
- ***The Student Athlete Fairness Act*** (H.R. 1363) would prohibit colleges and universities from penalizing innocent student athletes and coaches for violations of NCAA or other intercollegiate association rules committed by other team members or coaches.