

Republican Tuition Bill Hurts Students

Critique of H.R. 3311 (Rep. McKeon, R-CA)

- **The Republican bill penalizes students, by making colleges less affordable.** H.R. 3311 eliminates student access to key student aid such as work-study, Perkins loans, and Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants for actions completely out of their control.
- **Republicans fails to hold states accountable.** H.R. 3311 does nothing to address the biggest single reason for tuition increases: massive state budget cuts for higher education. State support for higher education has been declining for decades, meaning higher tuition prices for college students (more than 75 percent of whom attend state schools). State budget crises are making this worse, with states continuing to cut public support for higher education.
- **The Republican bill relies on failed attempt at price controls:** Previous attempts to implement price controls have failed. Rather than making college more affordable, H.R. 3311 will lead to fewer affordable college opportunities for students by withholding federal financial aid.

Higher Education Experts Oppose The Republican Price Control Bill

- “We definitely need Congress to address the issue of college tuitions that are out of reach for some students, but penalizing students isn't the way to do it,” said **Kate Rube, Advocate for the State PIRGs’ Higher Education Project.**
- “If enacted, the bill could jeopardize as much as \$80 million in campus-based scholarships and work-study grants offered by colleges in Massachusetts and \$150 million to schools throughout,” said **Clare Cotton, president of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in Massachusetts.** Cotton said a “significant impact” would fall on poor students, who receive the most financial aid.
- “The establishment of price controls on the industry would be unprecedented and would likely have a detrimental effect on the credit quality of public and private universities across the nation.” **Standard & Poor's**
- “The bill does nothing to address the causes of price increases, such as higher energy costs, more expensive health insurance, shrunken endowments and diminished state funding. Its approach to this complicated issue is so simplistic that canny college administrators could easily evade it.” **Los Angeles Times**, November 3, 2003