

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 10

Recognizing the challenges and burdens associated with the rising costs of
a college education.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 27, 2015

Mr. FATTAH (for himself and Mr. VARGAS) submitted the following concurrent
resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the
Workforce

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing the challenges and burdens associated with the
rising costs of a college education.

Whereas a college education is inextricably linked to economic
opportunity in the United States and the American
Dream;

Whereas a college education is integral to the vibrancy and
potency of the American workforce;

Whereas an estimated 30 percent of job openings will require
an associate's degree or some college by 2020;

Whereas the rising costs of higher education are an obstacle
to college matriculation and completion;

Whereas the Federal student loan debt for all borrowers ex-
ceeds \$1 trillion;

Whereas Federal, State, and local governments are pursuing strategies and innovations which will make higher education more affordable and accessible;

Whereas better utilizing our community colleges to address the rising costs of higher education is one such strategy;

Whereas there are 1,100 or more community colleges in the United States;

Whereas approximately 40 percent of undergraduate students attend a community college;

Whereas community colleges provide a cost-effective option to pursuing a college degree;

Whereas community colleges offer open admission;

Whereas the cost of community college is approximately 50 percent lower than traditional colleges and universities;

Whereas the Administration recently highlighted the importance of community colleges through the America's College Promise proposal and made a significant step in addressing the costs of higher education;

Whereas this proposal would provide two years of community college free for hardworking students who are enrolled at least half-time in a community college and maintain a good GPA;

Whereas this proposal could benefit approximately 9,000,000 students if all States participate;

Whereas an average of \$3,800 in tuition per year could be saved for full-time community college students through this proposal;

Whereas Congress has a significant role in making college more affordable and accessible; and

Whereas Congress can pass legislation which will reduce the rising costs of a college education making college more accessible for all students: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That Congress—*

3 (1) recognizes the challenges and burdens asso-
4 ciated with the rising costs of a college education;

5 (2) acknowledges the benefits of community col-
6 leges in providing an affordable and cost effective
7 way to obtain a college degree;

8 (3) supports the goals and ideals of the Amer-
9 ica's College Promise proposal; and

10 (4) commits to pursuing strategies in the 114th
11 Congress which will make college more affordable
12 and accessible for all students.

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