

I would like to join with others to support this resolution urging government and educators throughout the world to reaffirm the importance of academic freedom and open dialogue and to condemn measures that would prevent the sharing and exchange of knowledge.

COLLEGE COST REDUCTION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, much of the \$18 billion in new spending in the College Cost Reduction Act doesn't reduce the cost of college, but instead consists of new entitlements targeted at people who aren't even students. The bill cuts loan interest rates for those who have graduated from college—to the tune of \$6.2 billion. This is less than the amount the bill allocates towards Pell Grants—a form of aid that actually goes to students.

With so many new entitlements in this bill, I am concerned about the direction we are headed. Most of these new entitlements are given to institutions and to college graduates. The bill creates new TEACH Grants at a cost to taxpayers of \$375 million. This new entitlement gives grants to colleges and universities. It doesn't cut the cost of college for students—instead it moves towards creating a system that discourages personal responsibility and has no congressional accountability.

For instance, this bill expands a government program to repay the education loans of public sector employees. Public sector jobs include those in emergency management, government, public safety, law enforcement, public health, education, public social work, and public interest legal work. The current program repays loans remaining after 25 years of payment, but the expanded program grants loan forgiveness after 10 years of repayment, dramatically decreasing borrowers' incentive to pay off their loans.

Take for example a college graduate working in the public sector and making \$35,000 a year. If he or she has \$20,000 in debt upon graduation, this debt would be paid off within 25 years and the Federal Government would not have to pay off any remaining balance. But under the new terms the federal loan forgiveness comes at 10 years, which in this case means a payoff of more than \$10,000.

This is a new \$10,000 entitlement that creates incentives which directly discourage people in public service jobs from investing their own money in college debt. Why would someone pay off his debt at a rate any faster than the absolute minimum if he or she knows that in 10 years the Federal Government will come along and erase the remaining balance?

I want Americans to have access to education, but I don't want this access to come at the cost of a new entitlement mentality and increased dependence on the Federal Government for meeting the cost of education. At a time when we face massive increases in the cost of entitlement programs, I question the responsibility of constructing a whole new set of entitlements that will saddle future generations with new layers of government spending

and the higher taxes needed to fund these entitlements.

Education is important for the success of this nation, but giving entitlements to institutions and college graduates is not the way to lower the cost of college. In fact, heaping helpings of new entitlements will do much to undermine our national success as we face an impending entitlement crisis in the coming decades.

SCENARIO 1: INCOME-CONTINGENT REPAYMENT FOR PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES UNDER H.R. 2669, THE COLLEGE COST REDUCTION ACT (10 YEAR PERIOD)

REPAYMENT PLAN FOR PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES

The Secretary shall forgive the balance due on any loan for a borrower who makes 120 payments (monthly payments over a ten year period) on such loan pursuant to income-contingent repayment. And who is employed, and was employed for the 10-year period in which the borrower made the 120 payments, in a public sector job. This includes full-time jobs in emergency management, government, public safety, law enforcement, public health, education (including early childhood education), social work in a public child or family service agency, or public interest legal services (including prosecution or public defense).

Loan amount	AGI	Borrower payments (over 10 year period)	Forgiveness <sup>1</sup> (after the 10 years)
\$20,000	\$35,000	\$20,887 (\$174 monthly, 5.9%)	\$10,026 (\$30,913 total)
20,000	50,000	24,426 (\$204 monthly, 4.9%)	5,183 (\$29,609 total)
20,000	65,000	26,140 (\$218 monthly, 4.0%)	2,838 (28,978 total)
50,000	35,000	28,700 (\$239 monthly, 8.2%)	57,138 (85,838 total)
50,000	50,000	58,700 (\$489 monthly, 11.7%)	16,194 (\$74,894 total)
50,000	65,000	\$65,350 (\$545 monthly, 10.0%)	7,093 (72,443 total)

SCENARIO 2: UNDER CURRENT LAW (25 YEAR PERIOD)

Loan amount	AGI	Borrower payments (over 25 year period)	Forgiveness <sup>1</sup> (after the 25 years)
\$20,000	\$35,000	\$33,433 (\$111 monthly, 3.8%)	\$0 (\$33,433 total)
20,000	50,000	30,230 (\$100 monthly, 2.4%)	0 (\$30,230 total)
20,000	65,000	29,198 (\$97 monthly, 1.8%)	0 (\$29,198 total)
50,000	35,000	71,751 (\$239 monthly, 8.2%)	70,188 (\$141,939 total)
50,000	50,000	77,263 (\$257 monthly, 6.2%)	0 (\$77,263 total)
50,000	65,000	72,996 (\$243 monthly, 4.5%)	0 (\$72,996 total)

<sup>1</sup> Covers interest incurred, no cap on forgiveness (however, there if a threshold where you would be able to pay off your loan during the 10 year period and the forgiveness would not apply)

recognize the month of November as "National Homeless Youth Awareness Month."

Addressing youth homelessness needs to be a priority for Congress. As many as 1.6 million youth in our country experience homelessness each year, and in my home State of Minnesota, each night, 500 to 600 people under the age of 18 are unaccompanied and homeless. Many times these young people have been mistreated or abused, and without a permanent home, they face increased vulnerability to mental illness, drug use, and sexual abuse.

Establishing a National Homeless Youth Awareness Month is an important step toward bringing awareness to this serious problem and highlighting the work that is being done to address it.

I commend and will continue working with the organizations in the St. Paul/Minneapolis area that are dedicated to reducing and eliminating youth homelessness. For example, the Lutheran Social Service Rezek House is a Transitional Living Program, TLP, providing youth with a safe place to live for up to 2 years while they stabilize and learn the critical life skills they need to support themselves. Additionally, SafeZone is an organization helping low-income, runaway, and homeless youth to meet their basic needs by providing them with food, clothing, HIV testing, and referrals to safe housing. It also offers tutoring, independent living skills training, and a support group for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender, GLBT, youth, who are disproportionately represented among homeless youth.

Also, because our communities and our youth are diverse and have culturally specific needs, Ain Dah Yung, which means "our home" in the Ojibwe language, supplies a safe, culturally-relevant space for American Indian youth in the Twin Cities. Providing services for approximately 500 youth and families, services available through Ain Dah Yung include emergency shelter, crisis intervention, counseling, case management, and medical care.

Ensuring that all young people have access to safe, supportive housing is essential. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of establishing November as "National Homeless Youth Awareness Month."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2007

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present for rollcall votes 625, 626, 627, 628, and 629. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote 625, "no" on rollcall vote 626, "no" on rollcall vote 627, "no" on rollcall vote 628, and "yea" on rollcall vote 629.

NATIONAL HOMELESS YOUTH AWARENESS MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 527 to

A TRIBUTE TO GILDA BOJORQUEZ-GJURICH

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2007

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding

member of the Los Angeles-area business and civic community and a woman of true distinction, Gilda Bojorquez-Gjurich.

Raised in east Los Angeles, Gilda graduated from Garfield High School and Woodbury University in Burbank, where she majored in accounting. Following graduation, she put her education to work, pursuing a career as a general contractor and becoming a partner in an Alhambra-based construction firm. It was a successful and top-rated venture, reflecting her keen business sense and her ability to break through the glass ceiling as a woman in the construction industry.

Complementing her success in the business community, Gilda has spent decades making extensive civic contributions, serving on the board of directors for various nonprofit organizations and working to improve the lives of those less fortunate in the greater Los Angeles community.

For many years, Gilda has been a key member of Las Madrinas, an informal group of dedicated advocates mentoring the young women at Ramona Continuation High School in east Los Angeles. She has provided financial resources, and recruited volunteers and role models to help inspire and guide these young women working to turn their lives around in the school's alternative learning environment.

In 1989 Gilda became a founding member of *Hispanas Organized for Political Equality, HOPE*, and she continues to play a dynamic and influential role in the organization. Over the past two decades, HOPE has become a vibrant nonprofit, nonpartisan organization committed to ensuring political and economic parity for Latinas through leadership, advocacy, and education.

In 1991 Gilda cofounded HOPE's annual symposium entitled, *A Proud Past . . . A Powerful Tomorrow*. To date, the symposium has welcomed more than 3,000 Latinas who have come together to learn about issues important to our community. Gilda was also instrumental in getting local, county, and State officials to declare the annual symposium date as *Latina History Day*, celebrated on the second Friday in March to commemorate the historic achievements of Latinas.

Gilda was also pivotal in the growth and success of the *Mexican American Opportunity Foundation*, established in 1963 to serve disadvantaged individuals and families in the Los Angeles area. She was chair of the foundation's *National Hispanic Women's Conference*, and is credited with helping the group become a multi-million dollar organization that serves more than 100,000 low-to-moderate income Latinos throughout seven counties in California providing high quality social services and programs to those communities where need is the greatest. Gilda continues to serve on the board of directors for the organization.

While her advocacy on behalf of Hispanics has made her a loved and well known figure throughout Los Angeles, Gilda has also served with distinction and earned recognition at the State and national level. Over the years, she has served three Presidents in appointed positions, including her appointments to the *Commission on International Women's Year*, the *National Advisory Council on Women's Educational Programs*, and as an emissary to evaluate the revolution in Nicaragua. California Governor Gray Davis presented her with a commendation for exemplary community serv-

ice in recognition of her years of service on behalf of her fellow Angelenos.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Gilda as she celebrates her 80th year and a lifetime of commitment to the economic empowerment of Los Angeles communities and Latinas across the Nation. Gilda exemplifies what it is to be a role model—not just for Latinas, but for all Americans. Latino families in Los Angeles, the State and the Nation are truly fortunate to have such a devoted advocate, and I am equally blessed by her friendship that I look forward to cherishing for many years to come.

COLLEGE COST REDUCTION ACT  
OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 11, 2007*

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the College Cost Reduction Act and congratulate Speaker PELOSI and Chairman MILLER for keeping our promise to students and their families by bringing this legislation to the floor.

H.R. 2669 is the largest investment in higher education since the G.I. Bill. Currently, 200,000 potential students do not attend college because of the cost. Many more are unable to attend a four-year college and millions more graduate with an unsustainable level of debt. Democrats have made access to higher education a priority because it is a critical investment in the future of students and families, and because we recognize that our economy and our global competitiveness depend on this country maintaining a highly skilled workforce.

In Minnesota, tuition at public universities has increased 57 percent since 2000. However, incomes for middle class families have not kept up with this growth. H.R. 2669 makes several important changes to make sure that students are not priced out of higher education. Every qualified student who wants to attend college should have that opportunity. And importantly, with this legislation we are able to do so without increasing the national debt burden for the students we are helping today.

The College Cost Reduction Act will raise the maximum Pell Grant scholarship by \$500. Along with the work of the Appropriations Committee this year, the maximum grant award will reach \$5,100 by 2011. This is a critical increase for students after several years of this grant level remaining frozen at \$4,050 while tuition costs soared.

H.R. 2669 cuts interest rates on student loans in half which will reduce debt for millions of student borrowers. The average student savings will be \$4,400 over the life of the loan. The bill also increases Federal loan limits, reducing the need for the more-expensive private loans, and requires that student loan payments are manageable for borrowers by ensuring that no one pays more than 15 percent of their discretionary income in loan repayments.

H.R. 2669 recognizes that the salaries for some of the most important jobs in our communities—teachers, first responders, early

childhood educators, law enforcement officers and others—do not always match the value of their work. This bill provides loan forgiveness and some upfront tuition assistance for students interested in a career in public service.

By reducing very generous lender subsidies, this bill gives priority to students over profits without creating an undue burden for lenders. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this critical legislation.

FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND  
NATIONAL SECURITY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOE BARTON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 10, 2007*

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 556. As I have previously stated on this subject, more foreign investment in America, rather than less, is good for the country. But I share the belief we must have a robust review process to screen the few investments that threaten our security. The Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States—CFIUS—was established to ensure such transactions that require greater scrutiny are evaluated in light of these concerns. I believe it is our responsibility to make sure the review process is working as intended and make changes where appropriate to enhance this process.

There is no denying the benefits of foreign investment. Our culture of innovation and risk taking has positioned many of our industries at the forefront of global innovation. Foreign investors recognize potential in U.S. companies and risk their capital on companies because our country welcomes foreign investment. When domestic investment bypasses U.S.-based companies, we should be grateful the gap is often filled by foreign investment. The money provided by foreign investors creates jobs, growth and opportunity here at home, and we will only benefit by encouraging more investment. Shutting off foreign investment will hurt us more than it helps us.

But we must be sure that the need to attract investments is balanced with our obligation to ensure they will not pose a danger or national security threat to our Nation. The foreign investment review process is not new, but the highly publicized proposed transactions involving CNOOC and Dubai Ports last year highlighted to Congress, and the public, a process in dire need of review. Many observed this process by which our government sorts out good investment from bad can be rather opaque. Congress and the relevant Committees—including the Energy and Commerce Committee, which has original jurisdiction dating back to the Exon-Florio Amendment—need to be aware of the criteria used to evaluate the transactions and which transactions should be subject to more rigorous review.

Last Congress we acted on the need to clarify the review process and improve transparency. Through the Congressional process, the House passed legislation, but the Senate did not act. I am pleased the Senate has acted this Congress and we will pass this legislation to become law, but I am disappointed in several changes made to the original House-passed version.