



American Federation
of Teachers, AFL-CIO

AFT Teachers
AFT PSRP
AFT Higher Education
AFT Public Employees
AFT Healthcare

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September 6, 2007

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the more than 1.4 million members of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), including 165,000 higher education professionals, I urge you to support the reconciliation conference bill, the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (H.R. 2669).

This legislation will provide the single largest federal investment in higher education since the GI Bill. In particular, the AFT thanks Chairman George Miller, Chairman Edward Kennedy and Ranking Member Michael Enzi for their leadership and commitment to expanding access and making higher education more affordable for all.

Working families and aspiring students across the nation are struggling to find the financial resources to go to college. Many who are unable to get financial assistance stop short of pursuing a postsecondary education. Even the low- and middle-income students who are able to attend college are graduating with unprecedented levels of debt. Congress needs to respond to this crisis by passing H.R. 2669.

H.R. 2669 will help students and their families receive more funding for college by:

- Increasing the Pell Grant maximum to \$4,800 next year and to \$5,400 by 2012;
- Helping students save money in the long term by cutting interest rates from 6.8 percent to 3.4 percent by 2011;
- Providing up-front tuition assistance for graduate and undergraduate students who agree to teach in high-need public schools;
- Encouraging public service by providing loan forgiveness for public employees; and
- Increasing income protections for working students.

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Thank you for considering our views on an issue that is so important to working families across the nation. Again, the AFT urges you to vote YES on H.R. 2669.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KWC', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kristor W. Cowan
Director, Legislation Department

KWC:emc opeiu#2 afl-cio