

House Joint Memorial 15

Sponsored by Representative BUCKLEY; Representatives BARKER, BEYER, BOONE, DEMBROW, ESQUIVEL, GELSER, GILMAN, GREENLICK, HOLVEY, HUFFMAN, JENSON, KOMP, MATTHEWS, OLSON, READ, RILEY, ROBLAN, SCHAUFLEER, J SMITH, SPRENGER, WITT, Senator BATES

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Urges Congress to pass legislation and appropriate funds for free college education.

JOINT MEMORIAL

To the President of the United States and the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled:

We, your memorialists, the Seventy-fifth Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in legislative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

Whereas in the 1950s and 1960s the civil rights movement established the right of all Americans to equal access to public education; and

Whereas in the 21st century a college education is a prerequisite for effective labor force participation and economic security for workers and their families; and

Whereas the lack of access by growing numbers of Americans to post-secondary education severely limits democratic participation in the economic and political processes of the United States and results in a tragic loss of diverse human potential; and

Whereas the United States now ranks tenth among industrialized nations in the percentage of persons between 25 and 34 years of age with an associate degree or higher, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development; and

Whereas a recent study has found that low-income and middle-income students are unable to afford the full cost of public college in nearly every state in the Union; and

Whereas the average American student graduates with a debt load of \$17,000 from student loans and 39 percent graduate with debt loads that require more than 8 percent of their monthly income in repayments; and

Whereas the Oregon Student Assistance Commission ran out of money for college grants half-way through the 2008-2009 school year; and

Whereas studies have shown that the GI Bill was one of the most successful programs in our nation's history and that every \$1 invested in this program on those who would not have otherwise attended college produced a \$6.90 return in increased national output and tax revenues; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

That we, the members of the Seventy-fifth Legislative Assembly, respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to pass legislation and appropriate funds to provide a free college education for every academically qualified United States citizen; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this memorial shall be sent to the President of the United States, to

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 the Senate Majority Leader, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and to each member
2 of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

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