

# Cyber-Lobby Your Senators Today!

## The bill is expected to be voted on Friday, July 20, 2007.



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VOLUME 5

JULY 18TH, 2007

## Victory in the House of Representatives!

New? U.S. House of Representatives  
Education & Labor Committee  
Congressman George Miller, Chairman  
Wednesday, July 11, 2007  
Press Office, (202)226-0853

*Washington, D.C.*-By an overwhelming vote of 273 to 149, the House of Representatives approved legislation on Wednesday, July 11 that would do more to help students and families pay for college than any federal effort since the 1944 GI Bill. The legislation comes at no new cost to U.S. taxpayers.

The legislation, the *College Cost Reduction Act* of 2007 (H.R. 2669), would boost college financial aid by about \$18 billion over the next five years. The legislation pays for itself by reducing excessive federal subsidies paid to lenders in the college loan industry by \$19 billion. It also includes nearly \$1 billion in federal budget deficit reduction. The Senate is expected to vote on similar legislation this month.

“This bill is a remarkable step forward in our efforts to help every qualified student go to college,” said Rep. George Miller (D-CA), chairman of the Education and Labor Committee and author of the legislation. “With this bill, we are saying that no one should be denied the opportunity to go to college simply because of the price.”

Also under this legislation, the maximum value of the Pell Grant scholarship would increase by \$500 over the next five years. When combined with other Pell scholarship increases passed or proposed by Congress this year, the maximum Pell Grant would reach \$4,900 in 2008 and \$5,200 in 2011, up from \$4,050 in 2006, thus restoring the Pell’s purchasing power. About 6 million low-and moderate-income students would benefit from this increase.

The legislation would cut interest rates in half on need-based student loans, reducing the cost of those loans for millions of student borrowers. Like legislation passed by the House earlier this year, the *College Cost Reduction Act* would cut interest rates from 6.8 percent to 3.4 percent in equal steps over the next five years. Once fully phased-in, this would save the typical student borrower – with \$13,800 in need-based student loan debt – \$4,400 over the life of the loan. About 6.8 million students take out need-based loans each year.

Finally, the legislation would prevent student borrowers from facing unmanageable levels of federal student debt by guaranteeing that borrowers will never have to spend more than 15 percent of their yearly discretionary income on loan repayments and by allowing borrowers in economic hardship to have their loans forgiven after 20 years.

The *College Cost Reduction Act* includes a number of other provisions that would ease the financial burden imposed on students and families by the cost of college, including:

*Article Continued on Page 4*



**Women Issues are all of our issues.**

The Women issues committee continue to provide input and make recommendations to the Joint Conference Planning Committee on health issues and concerns related to women and girls.

*By: Vielka Elvebak*

## My experience on the Women Issues Committee.

My name is Vielka Elvebak and I'm the student representative from the state of California. At the beginning of my term, I worked in a subcommittee assignment with Delia Camacho, Linda Pondexter Chesterfield, and Jean Swenson. Our charge was to review health issues and concerns as they pertain to women and girls, and make recommendations for education efforts for NEA members. We needed materials such as: publications from HIN and other Women's Health Organization, to fulfill part of our goal. The four of us took a short trip to downtown Washington D.C., to attend a local conference on women's health issues. There were articles about cervical cancer, HPV (Human Papillomavirus), which is a sexually transmitted disease that falls into two categories: a) low risk HPV that causes genital warts, b) high risk, that causes cervical cancer in women. The four of us attended a workshop on a personal story of a 25 year old that had cervical cancer due to HPV, and had survived it. There were materials given to us at this conference, so we brought them back to the committee to share. The timeframe was on-going research between meetings, and feedback on what we found out back home about this disease.

We recommended that HIN provide updates and any new information on health issues and concerns related to women and girls. We requested that HIN make presentation to all WIC Meetings. We also recommended that HIN address health issues related to women and girls in all NEA publications.

The subcommittee recommended that WIC continue to provide input and make recommendations to the Joint Conference Planning Committee on health issues and concerns related to women and girls.

### **Apply for an NEA Standing Committee Today!**

There are eight NEA Standing Committee's, and nine Student Advisory Committee positions available. The deadline for applying is August 1,2007.

Get your application by logging onto [nea.org/student-program](http://nea.org/student-program) .

## My experience on the NEA Membership Committee.

As an active member of my local Student Education Association chapter as well as the state chairperson for the Illinois Education Association Student Program, I decided that I wanted to become involved on the national level as well. After speaking with our wonderful NEA chairperson, Anthony Daniels, and researching the many standing committees, I felt that I would be a great candidate for the NEA Advisory Committee on Membership (ACM). Membership is something that I knew a lot about through promoting the program on our local and state levels. As the state chairperson, one of my goals was to increase membership among our student population, and what better way to track that progress than to work with other NEA members who were also advocating for higher numbers!

Once I was appointed to the NEA ACM, I had the privilege of meeting several

people from across the country. I was able to network with retired members, higher education members, ESP's, and K-12 teachers. Being as I was the only student representative, the committee graciously welcomed me into the group and informed me of the issues they were currently dealing with. This year on the committee, we had a very important job assigned to us by the delegates of the 2006 Representative Assembly. We were responsible for writing a "contingency plan", addressing the definition and role of a contingent worker and developing language that identified needs and concerns of these individuals and everyone affected by this title. Before my involvement on this committee, I was unaware of the effects that contingency had on all of our membership groups, including college students. After a rough draft was produced, we were able to present our work

at the NEA Higher Education Conference.

Not only did I learn a lot from being part of such a diverse group, I was able to share ideas as a student voice and contribute to a legal document that will soon be accessible by any member of the National Education Association. I would highly recommend applying for a standing committee that best suits you and your interests. It is a great way to become more involved in the organization and network with many fascinating individuals.

*By: Kristi Uzzo,  
2006-2007 IEA State Student  
Chairperson*

*"One of my goals was to increase membership among our student population,"*

*Kristi Uzzo*

*“The rising levels of student debt threaten the ability to pursue successful careers in education without being committed to lengthy student loans plagued by rising interest rates.”*

-Anthony Daniels, in his testimony before the US Department of Education

## Victory in the House of Representatives!

- Tuition assistance for excellent undergraduate students who agree to teach in the nation’s public schools;
- Loan forgiveness for college graduates that go into public service professions;
- Increased federal loan limits so that students won’t have to rely as heavily on costlier private loans;
- New tuition cost containment strategies; and
- Landmark investments in Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions and minority serving institutions.

President Franklin Roosevelt signed the GI Bill into law in 1944. The original law enabled 7.8 million veterans of the second World War to participate in education or job training programs.

**Join the campaign by logging onto:  
[www.collegeaffordabilityconcernsme.org](http://www.collegeaffordabilityconcernsme.org)**

## Getting Involved Is Easy

- **Cyber-Lobby-**  
Send a letter to your U.S. Senators urging them to support the College Reduction Act 2007.  
Cyber-Lobby members from both Republican and Democrats.  
Website link below:

<http://www.nea.org/lac/highered/index.html>

- Letter Writing Campaign
- Petition Drive
- In District Lobby
- Call In

