



## Musgrave supports measure to help students, parents pay for college

**Washington, DC:** In her effort to reduce the cost of college tuition and help students and parents, Congresswoman Marilyn Musgrave, today, signed as a co-sponsor of the Higher Education Affordability and Equity Act.

“There is no denying the importance of obtaining a college degree and the opportunity it provides to succeed in today’s economy,” said Musgrave. “Many students and families are struggling to afford the cost of increasing tuition and, as a result, are putting off their education. The federal government should not exacerbate this problem with taxes, rather it should use tax breaks to provide incentives to help individuals afford higher education.”

The Higher Education Affordability and Equity Act (HEAEA) allows taxpayers making less than \$100,000 to deduct the full amount of their student loan interest, as well as allowing tax-free treatment of scholarships, including room and board. Currently, only tuition and fees are tax-exempt. This bill also increases the allowable contributions to Educational Savings Accounts from \$2,000 to \$5,000 annually and makes permanent a number of previously enacted tax provisions for college savings.

This important legislation will

further help parents to save for college by providing them incentives to set aside money in Private Tuition Accounts and Coverdell Education Savings Accounts.

“These are common sense measures that will help reduce the cost of tuition and will help make a college education more affordable,” said Musgrave. “It is a good deal for families, students, and the federal government.”

In addition, this bill is supported by education organizations, including: American Council on Education, The Assn. of American Universities, Assn. of Jesuit Colleges and Universities, National Assn. of College and University Business Officers, National Assn. of Independent Colleges and Universities, and the National Assn. of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges.

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*Marilyn Musgrave was elected to the United States House of Representatives in January 2003, and she represents Colorado’s Fourth Congressional District. Musgrave is a member of the House Committees on Agriculture, Education and the Workforce, and Small Business. To learn more about Rep. Musgrave please visit her official website at <http://www.house.gov/musgrave>.*