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## Education

The journey which is education is highly important. The lessons learned in classes and on campus in general lay the foundation for a life of success and accomplishment and, especially in this day in age, is irreplaceable. It is proven that, on average, the more education an individual receives, the more success they will have in the professional world. This is a well known fact that all students of my generation have been told since the beginning of our schooling. The lesson which has been repeatedly imbued in us throughout our life is that we need to go to college to succeed. It has always been that, without a college education, we will have only prepared to fail in our lives. This is something which I have always seen the logic in and accepted as truth as having a higher education provides you with more skills and, with that, the ability to contribute to society as a whole with a much greater degree of success. The only question that I have ever had in regards to pursuing a higher education is, if it is so commonly known that people with higher education can become more helpful to society, why do colleges and other entities take advantage of the very people they are attempting to educate? Although it is a well known fact that obtaining a higher education allows individuals to contribute to society at a much higher and more sophisticated level organizations like colleges and banks view the students as a way to generate huge amounts of money and not as an investment in the future of our nation and the world.

I have the blessing of attending a service academy which provides me with several benefits which other college students are not afforded. I do not have to pay for tuition, a room or food. I also have a paying job while in college as a will draw pay for simply attending classes and military training. Finally, and most importantly, I have a guaranteed job for at least 8 years after I graduate and the inside track to have an exceptional career. However, the majority of people who attend college do not have these opportunities. Most obtain debt which can become crippling if a job is not immediately found and, with way the current job market is, is much easier said than done.

This almost foregone conclusion of debt after college discourages some very bright individuals who could make a world changing discovery or breakthrough from pursuing the education they need to succeed. In short, the astronomical debt which college and graduate school force upon the people who participate in them discourage higher education. This is an epidemic which is not adequately addressed. Without providing a world class level of education to every generation our nation will fall behind the rest of the world in productivity, innovation and overall success. We should be encouraging people to pursue their passions with education, not dissuading them with high bills. A fine example of this is the way that Denmark subsidises students who are pursuing higher education. Obviously, as we have more people and students, it is impossible for us to actually pay for higher education completely but the idea of making this noble pursuit more financially achievable is a solid one. I believe that we should cap the total amount that colleges are allowed to charge while still providing financial aid for those who need it. This will allow for people from almost all socio-economic brackets to

obtain a college education and will remove a major point of concern for those considering pursuing a higher education.

Having a college education is extremely important to individuals and to the nation as a whole. Without a high level of education it is very hard to succeed at a high level in our current society and, without an educated population, America will not be able to compete on the world stage. It is key to the success of individuals and the nation to provide an easier path to obtain a higher education.