

Michaud Votes to Send Landmark Higher Education Legislation to the President

Thursday, July 31 2008

WASHINGTON, DC -

Today, Congressman Mike Michaud joined an overwhelming bipartisan majority in the House of Representatives to approve the Higher Education Opportunity Act (H.R. 4137), which would reform and strengthen the nation's higher education programs to ensure that they operate in the best interests of students and families. The bill is a comprehensive reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, the primary federal law aimed at expanding college access for low- and middle-income students.

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"Giving our young people every opportunity to succeed in their efforts to go to college is crucial," said Michaud.

"Supporting college education is one of the best investments that we can make in our future. We need to continue to foster the energy of our nation's youth and the bill that we passed today helps us get there."

An October 2007 report from the College Board showed that, over the previous five years, tuition and fees had increased across the board at public and private colleges and at two-year and four-year colleges. H.R. 4137 addresses these rising prices by encouraging colleges to rein in price increases, ensuring that states maintain their commitments to higher education funding, providing students and families with consumer friendly information on college pricing and the factors driving tuition increases, and streamlining the federal student financial aid application process.

H.R. 4137 builds on efforts to make college more affordable and accessible for all qualified students. Last year, Congress enacted into law a \$20 billion increase in college financial aid over the next five years, the largest increase in student aid since the G.I. Bill of 1944. The Senate is also expected to take a final vote on the legislation this week; if passed the bill would then be sent to the President's desk for his signature.

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