

**Amendment Proposed by Senators Snowe and Gordon Smith**

\_\_\_\_\_ § Abraham

At the proper place, insert the following:

**PURPOSE:** Expressing the sense of the Senate that any tax cut package reported by the Finance Committee and passed by the Congress during the FY01 budget reconciliation process include tax relief for college tuition paid and for interest paid on student loans.

**(a) FINDINGS.—**The Congress finds that—

(1) in our increasingly competitive global economy, the attainment of a higher education is critical to the economic success of an individual, as evidenced by the fact that, in 1975, college graduates earned an average of 57 percent more than those who just finished high school, compared to 76 percent more today;

(2) the cost of attaining a higher education has outpaced both inflation and median family incomes. Specifically, over the past 20 years, the cost of college tuition has quadrupled -- growing faster than any consumer item, including health care and nearly twice as fast as inflation -- and eight times as fast as median household incomes.

(3) despite recent increases passed by the Congress, the value of the maximum Pell Grant has declined 23 percent since 1975 in inflation-adjusted terms, forcing more students to rely on student loans to finance the cost of a higher education;

(4) from 1992 to 1998, the demand for student loans soared 82 percent and the average student loan increased 367 percent;

(5) according to the Department of Education, there is approximately \$150 billion in outstanding student loan debt, and students borrowed more during the 1990s than during the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s combined;

(6) In the Congress, proposals have been made to address the rising cost of tuition and mounting student debt, including a bipartisan proposal to provide a deduction for tuition paid and a credit for interest paid on student loans.

(b) SENSE OF SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the levels in this resolution and legislation enacted pursuant to this resolution assume that any tax cut package reported by the Finance Committee and passed by the Congress during the FY01 budget reconciliation process include tax relief for college tuition paid and for interest paid on student loans.

(12)

VOTE ON:

Income - Tax relief on

DATE:

YEA

Collect Taxes etc

**GRASSLEY**

**NICKLES**

**GRAMM**

**BOND**

**GORTON**

*Accepted*

**GREGG**

**MS SNOWE**

*w/o obj*

**ABRAHAM**

**FRIST**

**GRAMS**

**SMITH**

**LAUTENBERG**

**HOLLINGS**

**CONRAD**

**SARBANES**

**Mrs BOXER**

**Mrs MURRAY**

**WYDEN**

**FEINGOLD**

**JOHNSON**

**DURBIN**

**CHAIRMAN**