

April 5, 2011

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President

I want to personally thank you for your interest and determination in helping Americans attend college. As a returning student your conviction encouraged me to return to get my degree. I realize that there is nothing more important than an education and I appreciate your support.

The concern I wish to share with you is that not everyone is able to attend college. With the rising cost of a college education there are many Americans who cannot afford to go. Because of the states declining support tuition is getting out of reach for many. Without the affordability of college to all citizens the divide between the rich and poor continues to grow.

America needs to compete globally. The federal government needs to make more of an investment to ensure that the newest technology and major discoveries are on our soil. Many countries have realized that investing in higher education and their citizen's education is a major priority. America is not the leader is once was and that is unfortunate.

Educated citizen's earn more and spend more. They contribute more taxes and cost less in welfare aid and healthcare. College graduates are more involved in their communities and volunteer more. An educated nation is a happy nation.

You have done so much to help promote education. The recent Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 spoke volumes to your determination to help Americans afford college. I appreciate that much of the money was channeled to the Pell Grant program and invested in community colleges and historically black colleges. I also agree with the capping of repayments of student loans at 10 percent of discretionary income. I especially appreciate that you have set a goal of having the highest proportion of college graduates in the world by 2020.

While I agree with the steps you have taken I believe there are a few more changes that could be made by the Federal Government. I believe that a Federal Standard should be set by the Federal Government that public colleges, universities and trade centers should follow. The standards should include a goal to graduate a percentage of students. I believe that the federal government should increase Pell Grant funding and require public colleges to accept a standard percentage of the Pell Grant eligible students. With these students come incentives offered to the education facility for ensuring they graduate.

Research funds should be increased by at least 10% to help America stay relevant in the world. The federal government should also provide a program that offers set federal funds and/or grants to states that support their higher education programs.

If these changes were made America would regain its position at the top of the world. The middle class could be restored by educating those who have been unable to gain an education. I believe that the changes would make a huge difference to those in need.

As a college student myself and the mother of two sons attending college I appreciate the opportunity to gain an education and I realize how lucky we are. I want to continue to live in the greatest country in the

world and continue to be proud. Everyone in America should feel that the opportunity is there for them. Education helps everyone and with your help everyone can be educated.

I appreciate all you have done and I appreciate the opportunity to share my thoughts.

Karen Warren