

It's Better Together

According to the Legislative Analyst's Office Higher Education (LAO), California spends about \$10 billion dollars on higher education in the year 2009-2010, higher than any other state in the nation (Taylor). In recent years, the question of who should pay for higher education has been a hot topic issue in the state. As the budget crisis in California continued to escalate, the governments are passing laws decreasing spending on higher education and increasing taxes in order to cope with the budget crisis. This year, Gov. Jerry Brown proposed a reduction of General Fund for higher education. Brown proposed cutting \$500 million each from the UC and the CSU systems and another \$400 million from community colleges (Rosenhall). Not only teachers and other faculties are affected by this but students as well; teachers and faculties are receiving pay cuts, and worst of all, the students are having their opportunities reduced. To basically put it, we are paying more for a lower education because the governments are cutting courses and activities as well. To help alleviate the state's budget crisis and prevent any further budget cuts and to stop classes from being cancel, assembly woman Kristin Olsen said, "There has to be some skin in the game" (Olsen). There should be a combination of both the government and the people to help pay for education. We need to take part in our education because we can't rely on the government to pay for everything; we need to work together because it's better together than alone.

Higher education is becoming more and more expensive as the budget crisis continues to be a problem. Many new students entering college are relying heavily on the government paying

for their education. I have to rely on Financial Aid to help pay for my college's tuition.

Assembly woman Kristin Olsen had said, "The middle class can't afford the full cost" (Olsen).

The gap between the middle class and the upper class is increasing as the year rapidly passing by and as the tuition for higher education increases the income of the middle class decreases due to layoffs and budget cuts. The worst thing that can happen to our education is having the government take no part in paying for our education. When I was attending school Vietnam, my parents had to pay for my education, not necessarily for higher education, but just regular education like elementary school. My parents had to pay out of their own pocket from the moment I first went to first grade. My Mother and Father never graduated from elementary school, they had to drop out because their parents couldn't afford to keep their children in school. They never had a chance to explore their own potential to its fullest; if my parents had the money back then to continue school and attended college, they could be teachers, engineers, nurses, or even doctors instead of working as a nail technicians, but we will never be able to find that out now. Their talents were never utilized. If the government takes no part in funding for our education, not many students will be able to attend college due to the high costs, and if not many students are attending college we will lose out on many talented students that will be of use in the future. A lack of funding for higher education means that we are not making the best of what we already have. This is why we need the support of the government.

According to Judy Heiman, an analyst with the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO), the state pays half the cost for all students. The tuition in California, compared to other states, is by far the lowest tuition in the nation (Heiman). The state can only spend so much of its budget on education before there is a shortage in its wallet. College tuitions have become more expensive in recent years than it had been ten or twenty years ago. "We're at the brink of collapse," said

Heiman at the Open Forum at CSU Stanislaus. To try and encounter this problem, the government raises taxes to get in the extra money to fill that shortage; they started cutting down teachers' paycheck which caused several organized protests. It is important to remember that the government is supported by taxpayers. We have to find more ways to contribute to help fund for our education which in turns will help educate our society. An educated society is a better society. Although it is beneficial to both you and I if the government help to pay for our tuitions, we have to put some skin in the game.

The current economic instability is a reality. The government is trying it do its best to invest in the students to do well in school because that is where their tax money comes from and we, as students, rely on the government to get that well-rounded education to lead a much happier life. The more knowledgeable a society is, the better it will be when facing an economic instability; we will be less susceptible to economic instability. The government is like a car, and we are the driver. We both have a specific destination to get to, and that destination is a society where students are educated and the governments will have a better-educated society. To simply put it, both the government and the people have to work together to achieve a certain goal.

In conclusion, we should shake hands with the government and become partners to help fund higher education. The current economic instability in the modern world is a reality and we must acknowledge that we can't just rely on the government to pay for our tuitions and we must put some skin into the game as well. With the help of the government we will be able to keep walking towards the goal of a better society. We need to utilize all the talents that this nation has to offer and not let any talents go unutilized. We need to take part in our education because we can't just rely on the government to pay for everything; we need to work together because it's

better together than alone. So I encourage you to take parts in helping to pay for your college and your future.

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