

Educational Funding

Should higher education be paid with governmental funding or personal funding? This is the question that keeps going on for years with no solution. Representative Kristin Olsen said in the First Year Seminar at CSU Stanislaus, “School should be paid with both governmental funding and personal funding.” I agree with Representative Olsen school should be paid with a bit of both but there is a problem to this. Most students come from middle class families which can’t afford the full cost of a university and don’t qualify for financial aid either. This is a big problem for college students and with tuition rising more and more each semester students are facing more financial problems than ever. Education should be paid with both governmental funding and personal. Every student should be given money to help pay for school and should be expected to pay some amount on their own, an equality of both should be a good solution.

With the country’s economy getting worse by the minute tuition is rising more than ever each semester leaving some students with economic problems. Education always seems to be the first thing in the chopping block when it comes to budget cuts, leaving many students with no other option than to leave school due to its rising tuition fees. In the article “Squeezed from All Sides” they state, “A recent report from the non---partisan Public Policy Institute of California predicts that the state will be short one million college graduates needed in 2025 to fill the jobs that require a BA....Higher education is the economic engine of the state and that engine produces jobs, and it is in this context that California is slashing the budgets of its colleges and

universities” (Orfield 3). With the state cutting more money out of school budgets within year’s students will be no longer able to afford paying for a higher education. And with most jobs needing a BA that means within years most jobs will be short of employees due to most students not being able to afford a higher education to get a college degree.

It’s well known that the nation is dealing with an economic crisis and that’s why most educational programs are getting financial cuts. But just like the nation is dealing with an economic crisis the state should remember that families and students are also dealing with a crisis as well. It is always said that education is the most important thing but it’s always the first thing to get cut. In a 2009 research article done by the California’s legislative analysis’s office (LAO) it showed that “Over the past ten years, the share going to higher education has declined while the share going to corrections has increased...state spending per inmate adjusted for inflation has increased by almost two-thirds over the past ten years...Over the same period, state spending per student enrolled at the University of California has declined by about one-third” (LAO 2). Education is claimed to be the most important source in the nation but it is clear it’s always the first to be cut in order to get money for other state needs.

The state isn’t only cutting money from education it’s also cutting students from having the opportunity to receive a higher education. In an article in the Sacramento Bee new Governor Jerry Brown proposed that California’s public universities were going to have a huge hit with the state cutting about 400 million of the community colleges and another 500 million each of the University of California and California State University systems. This leading to tuition rising about 38 percent for community college and 10 percent for state universities. In the Sac Bee article they state “CSU responded to state budget cuts by slashing enrollment by 30,000 students,

largely by shutting the doors on those who wanted to transfer.” With the state rising tuition and students being turned down students aren’t being given the chance to receive a higher education.

The only solution to how school funding should be paid is by equally giving all students some type of financial aid and students paying an amount themselves. Its understanding that some students can’t afford higher education but with receiving some governmental funding and by getting some money on their own by working or applying for scholarships students will be able to pay off school with both governmental and personal funding. The state needs to look into cutting other things and not just education. By doing that more students will be able to receive financial aid especially the middle class who can’t afford the full cost of higher education, but also don’t qualify for financial aid. In the article “Squeezed from All Sides” they say “Higher education is the economic engine of the state and that engine produces jobs.” Education is the key for the future to be successful, but it’s not understandable to everyone why it’s the first to go when it comes to budget cuts. The state needs to see that by cutting education they are hurting themselves in the future to come. With less students being able to finish school and receive a higher education, in the future most jobs will be short and unable to be filled due to people not being able to afford getting an education.

Higher education should be paid with both governmental funding and personal funding; it’s the only fair and reasonable solution. With financial aid and scholarly programs available students should be able to receive governmental help and pay the rest of their expenses on their own. An equality of both payments is a reasonable solution to this fundamental problem. Education is the key to the future and with the state providing an amount of funding towards education to those in need, college will be able to be paid with both governmental and personal funding.

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