

Dear Editor:

I have never written a letter to the editor before but I am so outraged at the Fiscal Year 2007 budget request the President sent to Congress. The budget would eliminate funding for the Perkins Loan program and recall six billion dollars in federal funding from college and universities around the country. This will keep over 500,000 students from getting the low-cost loans they need to pay for school.

That just doesn't make sense. Just as a college degree has become essential for success in our global economy and tuition costs are rising, the administration wants to make it harder for students with financial need to obtain a degree.

This draconian proposal endangers access to higher education, thus economic opportunity for our young people. Without a college education, what chance will our kids have to compete for quality jobs?

What about investment? One of the soundest ways of spending money is to invest it in something that will provide a greater return down the road. I hope that Congress will agree with the vast number of Americans that our kids are worth an investment?

The Coalition of Higher Education Assistance Organizations (COHEAO), of which I am a member, has vowed to stand up for America's neediest students and will take our message to Congress: Students Need Perkins Loans- Preserve and fund them.