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It is important to provide our nation's students with an opportunity to receive a quality education. There are few things more valuable to an individual than a good education and few things more valuable to a community than educated residents. And, I know that a generous financial aid system is essential to providing access to higher education for students.

As college tuition and fees rise, students are burdened with an increasing amount of debt. According to the U.S. Department of Education, in 2005, loans accounted for 56 percent of aid in the U.S. and grants accounted for 43 percent.

I will continue to support measures that invest in our young people's education - America's future leaders.

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