

Miller Fights Attempt To Strip Funding for Community Colleges in The Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act

Washington, D.C. - In a speech on the House floor, **Rep. Brad Miller (NC-13)** criticized an amendment to The Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act introduced by **Rep. Virginia Foxx (NC-5)** to remove The American Graduation Initiative which includes \$7 billion in funding for community colleges over the next ten years.

"It's unbelievable that I would have to defend an investment in community colleges," said **Rep. Miller**

"Community colleges help North Carolina families who were struggling even before the recession hit. Community college students juggle school, work and often child care too. Community college job training programs are hardly welfare."

The Foxx amendment is scheduled for a vote today along with a House vote on *H.R. 3221, The Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2009*.

The bill includes unprecedented and critically important federal aid to assist community colleges as they work to meet President Obama's American Graduation Initiative goal of graduating an additional five million more students from community colleges by 2020.

The full bill would also simplify the loan system and save nearly \$90 billion over the next ten years by ending the subsidy program and allowing students to borrow directly from the government through their colleges and universities. Private lenders have been fighting attempts to end the expensive subsidy system that kept them profitable at taxpayer expense. Essentially, H.R. 3221 ends the failed public-private system and eliminates the private middleman.

"For the first time, the federal government is recognizing both the educational and economic role that community colleges play across the nation, and this legislation could represent the largest single federal investment ever made in our institutions." said **Scott Ralls, President N.C. Community College System.**

"This legislation has the potential to impact an extraordinary number of North Carolinians as our colleges struggle to address surging enrollment numbers as a result of the nation's current economic climate."

Rep. Miller is a co-founder of the Congressional Community College Caucus and **Rep. Foxx** is a member of the same caucus.

To view Rep. Miller's remarks on the House floor, go to

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s00AGzawOMs>

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