

Dear Friend,

As the father of two college-age daughters, I know the cost of sending children to college firsthand. In today's economy, these costs can seem even more insurmountable than usual. Today, the House will vote on H.R. 3221, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act (SAFRA). This bill is the single largest investment in aid to help students and families pay for college in history – and the best part is that it comes at no cost to you.

This bill will reform the system of federal student loans to make the process easier and simpler for students. These changes will save the taxpayer \$87 billion. It will also invest \$3 billion nationally to bolster college access and support programs, keep interest rates low on need-based loans, and fund school modernization programs nationwide. In addition, this legislation simplifies the complicated and confusing Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form.

SAFRA will also make a direct impact in our community. Over the next ten years it will invest \$61.1 million in New York's Second Congressional District alone. Next year, more than 12,000 students in our area will be eligible for a Pell Grant.

Throughout my time in Congress, I have worked to make education more affordable and accessible for students and families. We need to ensure that no family has to tell a child, "You're smart enough to get into the best colleges, but we can't afford to send you there."

For more information on SAFRA, visit my website at <http://israel.house.gov> .

Sincerely,

Steve Israel
Member of Congress