

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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... As Seen on '60 Minutes'

Cosponsor H.R. 1425, the 'STAR Act,' to Make College More Affordable.

Dear Colleague:

Last week, '60 Minutes' ran an excellent segment on the federal student loan system. In short, it explored how one of the federal student loan programs continues to cost taxpayers far more - specifically \$50 billion more between 1992 and 2005¹.

I was pleased to contribute to the segment, albeit briefly, and share a commonsense solution that is fiscally-responsible and fair to participants in both student loan programs. When asked how this excessive waste of taxpayer dollars could be avoided, I responded:

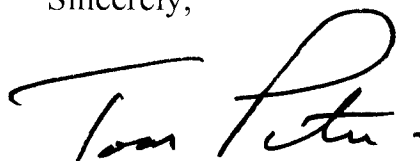
"All we were asking is that the lower-cost program be allowed to compete on a more equal basis," Rep. Petri explains. "And we think the result will be that we'll save money for the taxpayer."² (*full transcript: www.cbsnews.com*)

Each day, more of our colleagues are signing onto H.R. 1425, the Student Aid Reward (STAR) Act, to show their support for a more fiscally-responsible student loan system. Congressman George Miller and I introduced this legislation last year because we recognized these problems and **believe that taxpayers and students deserve better.**

- CBO has confirmed that the STAR Act would save taxpayers \$13.4 billion in wasteful spending - and reinvest those savings as Pell Grant aid and towards deficit reduction at no additional taxpayer expense.
- Over \$10 billion of these savings would be reinvested as additional Pell Grant aid for students in schools that choose to participate in the more efficient program. This would amount to an additional \$1,000 per recipient, per year.
- The remaining \$3.35 billion would be devoted towards deficit reduction.

To join us in standing up for students and taxpayers by encouraging a more efficient student loan system, please call Tom Culligan in my office at 5-2476 to cosponsor.

Sincerely,



THOMAS E. PETRI
Member of Congress

¹ <<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2007/pdf/appendix/edu.pdf>>(page 367)

² CBS News: <<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2006/05/05/60minutes/main1591583.shtml>>