



APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE DEMOCRATS

Rep. David Obey, Ranking Member • 1016 Longworth HOB • (202) 225-3481

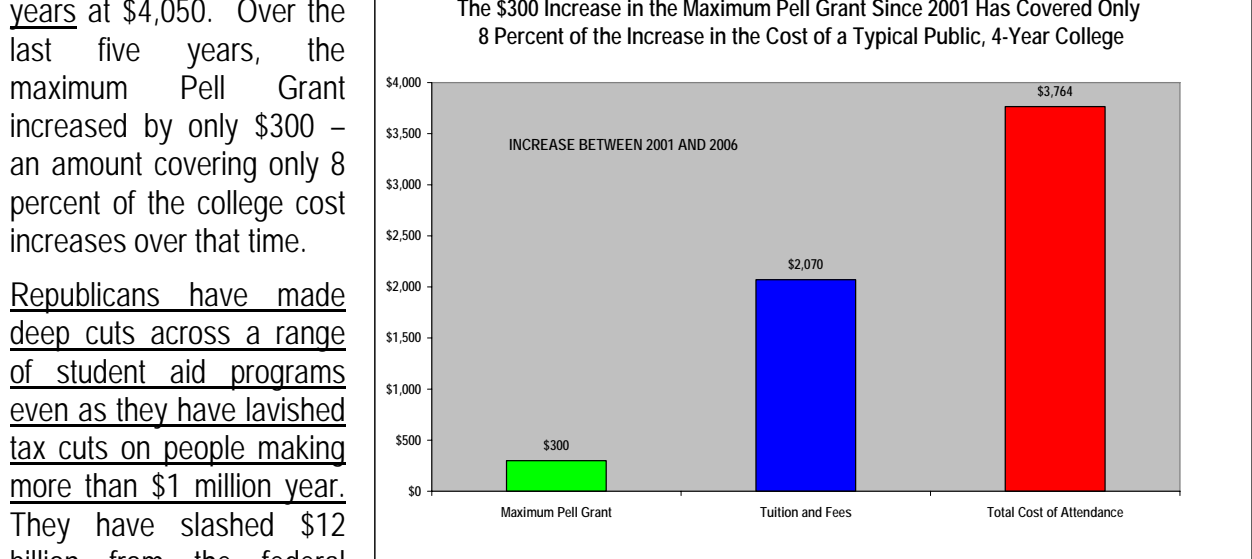
A FAILURE OF LEADERSHIP: REPUBLICANS UNDERMINE COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY

The latest College Board reports reveal what American families already knew – the dream of a college education is being priced out of the reach of many students. Yet Republicans are making it more difficult to afford a college education by freezing Pell Grants, cutting student loans, and forcing families to take on more debt.

According to the College Board reports released today:

- Tuition and fees at public, 4-year colleges increased 55 percent or \$2,070 between 2001 and 2006.
- The total cost of attendance at public, 4-year colleges increased 42 percent or \$3,764 between 2001 and 2006.

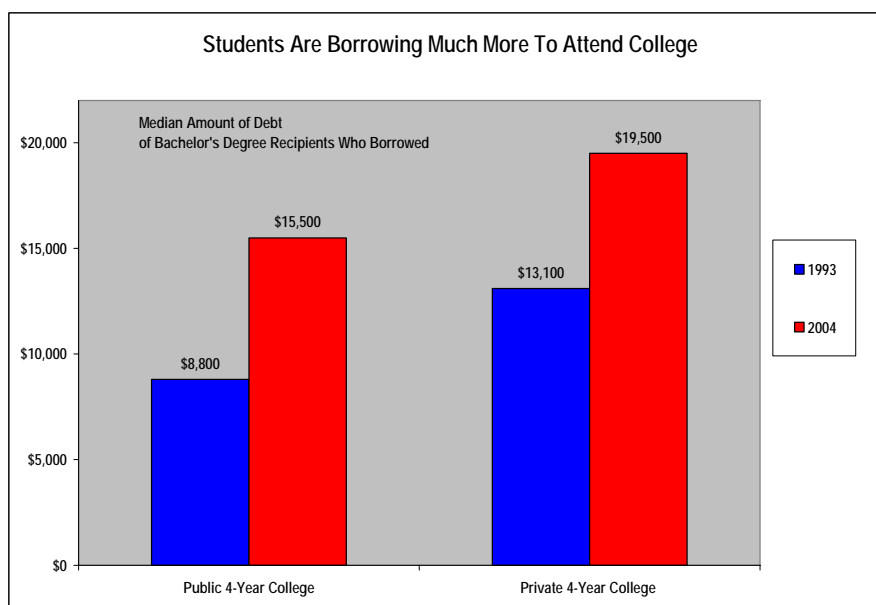
Instead of helping families keep up with rising college costs, House Republicans froze the maximum Pell Grant for the last 3 years at \$4,050. Over the last five years, the maximum Pell Grant increased by only \$300 – an amount covering only 8 percent of the college cost increases over that time.



Republicans have made deep cuts across a range of student aid programs even as they have lavished tax cuts on people making more than \$1 million year. They have slashed \$12 billion from the federal

student loan program and increased interest rates on college loans. In addition, Republicans have:

- Cut College Work-Study grants by \$31 million (3 percent) and Perkins Loans by \$95 million (59 percent) since 2001.
- Cut Pell awards for more than a million students and eliminated Pell awards for 81,000 students in 2005 by changing how federal student aid eligibility is computed.



As Republicans cut college aid, students and parents are forced to take on more debt. In fact, college seniors at public, 4-year institutions who borrowed to pay for school owed a median debt of \$15,500 in 2004, nearly double the \$8,800 borrowed in 1993.

Democrats in Congress fought the Republican student aid cuts and believe we must make college more affordable to keep the American Dream alive.