



## **Making Higher Education Affordable**

Having relied on federal loans and grants to afford a college education, Representative Aguilar understands the importance of college affordability and improving access to higher education for Inland Empire families. That's why since taking office he has worked with his colleagues on both sides of the aisle to increase opportunities for college-bound students and to help recent graduates find their financial footing as they enter the workforce.

### **Improving the Student Loan Process**

- ✓ Authored, H.R. 5622, the Grace Period Alleviation (GPA) Act to make repaying student loans more affordable for recent college graduates by allowing those with Stafford Loans to extend their grace period an additional six months. It also eliminates interest accrued during the grace period for low-income students with subsidized need-based Stafford loans and allows them to refinance under certain circumstances.
- ✓ Cosponsored H.R. 1434, the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act, which allows students loan borrowers to refinance their loan to take advantage of today's lower interest rates.

### **Accessing Free Community College**

- ✓ Cosponsored H.R. 2962, the America's College Promise Act, which creates a grant program for to make community college free by waiving tuition for eligible students. It also authorizes \$80 billion for the program over ten years.

### **Protecting Students from Dangerous For-Profit College Practices**

- ✓ Cosponsored H.R. 2192, the Protections and Regulations for Our Students (PRO) Act, which sets up accountability measures for for-profit colleges and strengthens whistleblower protections for students and faculty.
- ✓ Hosted a student loan transfer workshop for students who attended the local for-profit institution, Everest College, which left students throughout the Inland Empire with tens of thousands of dollars in debt and without a degree when it suddenly shut down. Representatives from California State University, San Bernardino's financial aid office and the California Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education worked with students who attended Everest College to find ways to transfer their class credits to other institutions.

### **Increasing Access to Pell Grants**

- ✓ Cosponsored, H.R. 242, the All-Year ACCESS Act, which allows part-time and full-time students to use Pell grants year-round and afford the costs of summer and winter break classes
- ✓ Voted against Republicans' efforts to freeze the Pell grant program, which would have cut the program by \$220 billion over ten years and eliminated \$89 billion that had been previously appropriated for the Pell grant program.