



TOM LATHAM - TRUSTED LEADERSHIP FOR IOWA



## Report on the 110th Congress Education Accomplishments of Congressman Tom Latham

Paid for by Latham for Congress

# Education

*Congressman Latham believes all individuals who desire a college education should be allowed to achieve that goal, and he has worked hard to fulfill his strong commitment to student aid throughout the past decade. The federal government currently provides over \$90 billion in resources for higher education student aid programs; this is nearly triple the investment from a decade ago. The federal investment, combined with private and institutional scholarships, has provided numerous opportunities for students to finance their higher educations. In fact, more people attend college today than ever before.*

*As a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee, Congressman Latham has worked diligently to make college education more accessible and affordable for all students by providing necessary funding.*

## **Co-Chair of the Congressional Community College Caucus –**

Iowa has a strong statewide system of 15 community colleges which guarantees Iowans the opportunities for educational advancement and career development regardless of previous educational attainment.

Congressman Latham has taken a leadership role on behalf of Iowa community colleges by leading the 200-plus member caucus of the U.S. House of Representatives to advocate for policies and funding on behalf of community colleges.

## **Education Legislation Authored by Congressman Latham –**

### **H.R. 6652, the Nurses Higher Education and Loan Repayment Act.**

This legislation addresses the growing nursing shortage faced by Iowa and the nation by providing student loan repayment for nurses who earn a graduate degree.

**SUMMARY:** The measure's key provision provides student loan repayment for nurses who earn a graduate degree and commit to serve as faculty members—a powerful incentive not currently available to nurses considering this career.

**BACKGROUND:** Congressman Latham's legislation has been endorsed by more than 44 nursing organizations in the United States, including the American Nurses Association (ANA), the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), the American Association of Community Colleges

(AACC) and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and the Iowa Hospital Association.

Iowa has a nursing shortage of over 8% of the number needed throughout the state, according to the Iowa Department of Public Health. That number is expected to jump to 27 percent in just over a decade. Nationally there is a shortage of more than 200,000 registered nurses-a number that is projected to grow to over one million by the year 2020.

Congressman Latham sought to build a solution by teaming up with Iowa nursing and health care professionals through a series of open roundtables around the state to listen to their unique perspective and input on what is needed. He then wrote legislation and teamed up with Wisconsin Democratic Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin to introduce the bill in the United States House.

## **Key Education Legislation Supported by Congressman Latham –**

### **H.R. 4137- the Higher Education Reauthorization and College Opportunity Act.**

This bill overhauled our nation's higher education laws, advancing key reforms that address the soaring price of college and removing other obstacles that make it harder for qualified students to go to college. *(Signed into law)*

#### Provisions within H.R.4137

##### **Federal Pell Grants**

The law raises the maximum authorized Pell Grant from \$6000 to \$8000 over the next six years and permits year-round grants.

##### **Loan Forgiveness Program for Service in Areas of National Need**

The program permits loan forgiveness of up to \$2,000 for each school year or calendar year of full time employment in area of national need, up to \$10,000 per borrower. Some areas of national need are early childhood educators, librarians, child welfare workers, school counselors, medical specialists, mental health professionals, applied sciences, technology & engineering or mathematics (STEM) employees.

##### **Transparency in College Tuition for Consumers**

This law creates a college affordability list for students to compare information on various colleges to find the best value.

##### **Textbook Information**

The law also requires that certain information such as price be provided to students with the course schedule.

### **In-State Tuition Rates for Armed Forces Members, Spouses, and Dependent Children**

H.R. 4137 requires states to provide in-state tuition to members of the military and their dependents who have lived in a state for more than 30 days.

### **State Commitment to Affordable College Education**

The law requires states to maintain at least level funding for higher education or risk losing some federal higher education funding.

### **H.R. 5740, the Post 9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Act.**

Congressman Latham was an original cosponsor of this bi-partisan bill to completely overhaul and nearly double G.I. Bill education benefits for veterans. The bill closely resembles the educational benefits provided to veterans returning from the Second World War, and increases benefits to address the reality of rising tuition costs and increased deployment of National Guard and Reserve units. **This legislation was signed into law on June 30, 2008 as part of H.R. 2642, the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2008.**

### **H.R. 5715 -The Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act.**

This bill was passed into law to help ensure liquidity in the student loan market. *(Signed into law)*

- Increases unsubsidized loan limits by \$2,000 for undergraduates, and aggregate limits to \$31,000 for dependents and to \$57,500 the limits for independent undergraduate students
- Creates an optional grace period for repayment of Parent PLUS loans while the student is in college.
- Allows the Secretary of Education to temporarily buy student loans as a last resort should the market liquidity crisis spread further into student loan securities.
- Allows the Department of Education to be a lender of last resort to entire institutions rather on an individual by individual basis.

## **Congressman Latham's Iowa Education Funding Initiatives –**

**Simpson College - Blank Performing Arts Center** - Congressman Latham obtained funding for the expansion of the performing arts at Simpson which includes: increasing outreach efforts in children's theatre; expanding curriculum to offer technology-focused course work; hosting camps and festivals on campus and offering world-class facilities.

**Waldorf College Science equipment for biology bachelors degree program** - This funding obtained by Congressman Latham will assist in the purchase of science equipment and library resources to support the biology bachelors degree program.

**Sustainable Energy Education Center equipment – Iowa Lakes Community College** - Congressman Latham obtained funding which will be used to purchase and install laboratory equipment and other educational resources to support the sustainable energy education programs.

**Special Olympics Education Activities - *Special Olympics Iowa*** – Congressman Latham obtained funding to support the efforts to increase participation of individuals with intellectual disabilities and support the design and implementation of Special Olympics programs that can be integrated into classroom instruction.

**Iowa State University – Over \$71 Million has been secured by Congressman Latham over the past four fiscal years.** As a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee, Congressman Latham has worked closely with the leadership at Iowa State University to help bolster the institution's historic prominence and create opportunities for students in a broad range of high profile research.

**Other Funding Initiatives for Iowa State University:**

- ISU Internet Scale Event & Attack Generation Environment (ISEAGE) –This program that simulates technology cyber attacks for the purpose of researching cyber defense mechanisms.
- A program for risk assessment and mitigation for genetically modified agriculture products.
- The Northeast Iowa Dairy Education Initiative which carries out education and applied research activities in conjunction with state dairy farmers.
- The Midwest Poultry Consortium which engages in research on animal nutrition, waste management and animal welfare.
- Corn rootworm research projects.
- The Forensic Testing Center at the Ames Department of Energy Lab located on the ISU campus. The forensics program works with Iowa and other state and federal officials in seeking new forensics tools.
- The Food & Agriculture Policy Research Institute (FAPRI), of which ISU is a member, carries out international agriculture policy work oriented toward research on the impact of trade policy on agriculture policy.

- The Advanced Live, Virtual, and Constructive (LVC) Training Systems project will allow Iowa State University researchers to develop new training software in partnership with the U.S. Army.
- The New Vaccines to Fight Respiratory Infection project will allow a team of researchers at Iowa State University to develop unique vaccine delivery vehicles in partnership with the U.S. Army. The vehicles can be employed to combat a wide variety of respiratory pathogens that threaten military personnel, as well as protect animals from agro-terrorism involving airborne diseases.

**Congressman Latham leads effort for increase in funding for Land Grant universities.** For the past three years Congressman Latham has led the fight to increase the funding for different formula funding initiatives for Land Grant schools such as ISU. This includes funding for Hatch Act and other federal research funding provided to Land Grants each year.

**Waldorf College- Teacher Preparation Library Materials** - These funds secured by Congressman Latham will be used to acquire necessary library materials to support teacher preparation at Waldorf College in three major areas: theory and classroom practices, children and juvenile books and curriculum materials.

**Iowa Department of the Blind - Implementation of the Digital Talking Book Service** – Congressman Latham obtained funding to help the state transition, with the Library of Congress, to a new digital format by providing additional media and digital storage space.

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