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***We paid our taxes…***

**NOW WE NEED THE STATES TO FUND**

**OUR COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES!**

**What state disinvestment means to our students**

**TUITION UP:** The funding for each student that state and local government provided public colleges and universities fell by $2,600, after adjusting for inflation, between 1987 and 2012. During the same time, per-student tuition rose by $2,600.

In other words…

**The entire increase in tuition at public colleges and universities over the last 25 years has gone to make up for declining state and local revenue!**

During the 20 years between 1991 and 2011 (the latest year for which there is data), median household income grew by about 3%. But tuition at four-year public colleges grew by 159%.

**EDUCATION DOWN:** This left no additional funding to improve educational programs and services.

**DEBT UP:** Student debt is now at over $1 trillion, a figure greater than all the credit card debt in this country.

Source: Center for Budget and Policy Priorities

[www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=3927](http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=3927)

**Do states really need to cut higher ed funding?**

The data say NO! Profits of corporations are at an all-time high and the income share of the top 1% of households is at the highest level since 1928.

**Source: Center for Budget and Policy Priorities**

 www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=2908

**You can help**

* Contact your state representatives about these concerns.
* Learn about ways higher education can get the funding it needs—right now! See futureofhighered.org/workingpapers

**State investment in higher education is plummeting!**

THE PROOF

1 - State and local taxes have averaged about 10% of personal income between the mid-1970s and 2009.

2 - Between 1980 and 2013, state fiscal investment in higher education (as a percentage of personal income) dropped by 46.7%.

3 - Between 2008 and 2013, state personal income increased by 15%. But state support for higher education (as a percent of personal income) dropped 11%.

Source: Post-Secondary Education Opportunity, February 2013

CONCLUSION

**Our states are in a “Race to Zero” funding for public higher education.**

*See where your state stands in the Race to Zero in the chart on the reverse of this page.*