

Policy Pitch

Affordable Higher Education

About 14 million students attend public colleges and universities in the United States. Among these 14 million students on average they are paying at least \$6,000-\$17,000 for tuition and fees depending on their college. Over the years this debt starts to accumulate leading to student's not being able to afford to attend college. We aim to reduce this issue by removing sales taxes on items sold on school campuses and mandating 35% of revenue obtained from the state lottery be allocated to school funding.

Of course, it is important to consider opposition to our plan:

- Some may be upset by the decrease in the winnings pool of the lottery, but providing money to the masses to further their education brings more good to society than giving money to only a handful of individuals.
- We realize it may also seem counterintuitive to remove sales taxes that already allocate money to the government, but we believe that this change will be better for everyone. The more money rerouted to higher education from the lottery and the removal of sales taxes on college and university property, the more individuals that will have access to higher education, the more money students will have to put towards circulating in the economy, and the less debt that will have to be repaid inevitably boosting the economy and allowing more people the ability to have a higher education.

The feasibility of our affordable education policy is extremely likely to lower the national debt in the long run. As we know, some affordable education programs are already in place and boost the likelihood of students to excel in school, and eventually graduate and become a successful member of society.

Nowadays, it is expected for high schoolers to go to college after high school, as it is becoming extremely difficult to acquire a well-paying job without a degree, which is a kind of incentive for students to seek higher education. Something beneficial to note is that this should not take long to see results, as after students graduate and go into the workforce making around \$50,000, this money will be circulated back into the economy. Not to mention the average student debt should decrease significantly, which also yields more capital into the economy in the form of groceries, mortgages, and investments that will greatly improve our country's economy and decrease the overall national debt for younger generations.