

# Education

Public education is a founding principle of the United States. Even before the Constitution was written the nation adopted the Land Ordinance of 1785, which set aside land in each township for public education. In our public schools, our children have the opportunity to form relationships with classmates from all walks of life. This strengthens our communities.

Our public schools should have the resources and support to prepare our children to be productive and successful members of society. Through excellent education for all, the American dream of opportunity for all is realized.

In the House version of the Tax Bill the \$250 deduction teachers can use when they provide resources for their students was removed. It was only in the Senate version of the bill that this deduction was reinstated. Ending the deduction in the House bill reflected a lack of respect for the effort and sacrifice of our children's educators.

My grandmother was a teacher in a one room school house on the South Dakota prairie. This was during the time when only single celibate women were teachers. They were poorly paid and marriage or pregnancy resulted in the end of their careers. Fortunately that era has ended. Stable employment and fair compensation for teachers results in better education for our children.

The Federal government's support for education comes through various areas of support:

- Early childhood education
- Support for disabled and economically disadvantaged students
- Grants and loans for education after high school

The student loan program is in need of reform. Currently there are over 40 million Americans who have outstanding student loans. The amount owed is over \$1.3 TRILLION. A fourth of these Americans are behind on their payments. This causes hardship for our fellow citizens and also harms our communities. When young adults are blocked from reaching financial stability they are unable to fully participate in the economy then the vitality of our communities is damaged.

My goal is to assure excellent and affordable education for all Americans.

