



# Business

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## Amendments would help students

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WASHINGTON — Colorado Rep. Marilyn Musgrave won passage Friday of two amendments that would improve college students' access to federal financial aid programs.

The House Education and the Workforce Committee added the amendments to a bill that expands and renews the Higher Education Act, which Congress



MUSGRAVE

passed in 1965 to help low- and middle-income students go to college.

One amendment would change federal law to ensure that Colorado in-state students who seek federal aid, like Pell grants and Stafford loans, would not be penalized by the state's new College Opportunity Fund.

The state fund gives students \$2,400 a year to spend at the college of their choice statewide to offset tuition costs.

The money comes from cash that used to go directly to state universities and colleges and is not income for the students.

"Students shouldn't be

harmed in their eligibility for federal aid because of the stipend in-state students receive," Musgrave said in a statement.

The Republican congresswoman's second amendment would protect small-business owners' children from having their parents' business assets count against them when applying for federal student aid.

A similar provision in law applies to farmers' and ranchers' children — people with large amounts of money tied up in expensive machinery and equipment that cannot be sold or mortgaged easily to

pay college tuition.

Musgrave's amendment would apply to the families of small-business owners who employ no more than 100 full-time employees.

According to the Small Business Administration, 6 million businesses had fewer than 100 employees in the United States in 2002, 114,373 in Colorado.

University of Northern Colorado President Kay Norton welcomed both amendments. The measures were attached to the College Access and Opportunity Act of 2005, which now goes to the full House for a vote and then to the Senate.

Federal aid programs assume that families will contribute to their students' education and that expected contribution is calculated based on family assets, Norton said. More than 60 percent of her school's students get financial aid, much of it from the federal government.

"It's one thing if you're saying 'You guys have a small yacht on Lake Dillon, so you ought to be able to afford to pay college tuition,' " she said. "It's quite a different matter if it's a (farm) combine that's the only means of harvesting the wheat for income."

## How Colorado's legislators voted in Congress

Here are highlights from action in the Senate and House in the past week, along with the votes of Colorado legislators. Colorado's senators are Republicans Wayne Allard and Ben Nighthorse Campbell. In the House, Colorado has seven legislators: Republicans Joel Hefley, Scott McInnis, Marilyn Musgrave, Tom Tancredo and Bob Beauprez, and Democrats Diana DeGette and Mark Udall.

### HOUSE

■ On Tuesday, voted 226-195 to include in a State Department reauthorization bill a mandate to withhold U.S. funds from the United Nations if it doesn't make a series of changes. The proposal passed on its own in June.

■ Also Tuesday, voted by voice for an amendment calling for monitoring of European government or companies that sell military hardware or technology to China. The amendment was a new version of a bill that failed that would have mandated strict sanctions on companies and countries that sell to China armaments or items that can be used militarily because of concerns that U.S. defense contractors would be hurt.

■ On Thursday, the House voted 257-171 to extend most provisions of the USA Patriot Act indefinitely. Two of the most controversial provisions of the anti-terror law, which allow federal agents to use roving wiretaps and search medical and library records, were extended for 10 years.

### Key House votes

#### 1. USA Patriot Act

The House voted 257-171 on Thursday to extend most provisions of the USA Patriot Act indefinitely. Two of the most controversial provisions of the anti-terror law, which allow federal agents to use roving wiretaps and search medical and library records, were extended for 10 years. Proponents of the act say it's necessary to protect Americans against terrorism, but those who object to the law say it infringes on Americans' basic rights and freedoms.

Beauprez, Bob: Yea

DeGette, Diana: Nay

Hefley, Joel: Yea

Musgrave, Marilyn N.: Yea

Salazar, John T.: Nay

Tancredo, Thomas G.: Yea

Udall, Mark: Nay

SOURCE: Highlights compiled from Gannett News Service stories and Congressional Quarterly's CQ Today, roll call votes from Senate Internet site and House press gallery.