

BRUCE L. BRALEY  
1ST DISTRICT, IOWA

VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on  
Economic Opportunity

OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT  
REFORM COMMITTEE

POPULIST CAUCUS  
Chairman

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

1727 Longworth Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-2911 | Fax (202) 225-6666

February 29, 2012

WATERLOO DISTRICT OFFICE

219 East 4th Street  
Waterloo, IA 50703  
Phone: (319) 287-3233  
Fax: (319) 287-5104

DAVENPORT DISTRICT OFFICE

209 W. 4th St., Suite 104  
Davenport, IA 52801  
Phone: (563) 323-5988  
Fax: (563) 323-5231

DUBUQUE DISTRICT OFFICE

1050 Main Street  
Dubuque, IA 52001  
Phone: (563) 557-7789  
Fax: (563) 557-1324

The Honorable John Boehner  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Minority Leader Pelosi:

As you may know, the American Opportunity Tax Credit is scheduled to expire at the end of the year. I've introduced the *College Tax Cut Extension Act* which would extend this tax credit for four more years. Please work together to pass my legislation to extend this important tax credit.

This tax credit provides up to \$2,500 to undergraduate college students for tuition as well as coursework materials including books. It is no secret that college tuition continues to drastically increase. In Iowa, tuition costs have increased by 82.9 percent since 2000 while median household income has decreased by 6.3 percent. Iowa students are also graduating with some of the highest debt in the country. Iowa students graduate with the 3rd highest student debt loan of any state in the United States. These alarming statistics shows us how important it is to extend this tax credit.

As college tuition continues to drastically rise, students cannot afford thousands of more dollars in bills because Congress failed to act. After witnessing the debacle that occurred over the payroll tax extension, I would hate to see a similar scenario occur with this issue. Please pass my *College Tax Cut Extension Act* extending the American Opportunity Tax Credit for four more years. I stand ready to work in any way possible to make sure we keep student loan interest rates at their current level.

Sincerely,

  
Bruce L. Braley