

RENSSELAER COUNTY LEGISLATURE OFFICE OF THE MINORITY

Peter Grimm, 273-1500 or 270-2892

Letter to the Editor:

I was proud to sponsor a resolution in support of a state subsidized low-cost student loan program approved by a unanimous vote at the August meeting of the Rensselaer County Legislature.

With the cost of college tuition in New York State outstripping the rise in income and with fewer financial institutions offering student loans, many families are finding it's more and more difficult to finance a college education. New York is one of only ten states that do not offer residents low-interest student loans and in this resolution I encouraged the development of a program in accordance with recommendations of the State Commission of Higher Education.

The New York State Senate has already passed legislation that would establish a subsidized student loan program and the bill is currently awaiting action in the Assembly. Last month Governor Paterson indicated that he would support such a program, and, as a member of the Education Committee for Rensselaer County, I believe it is imperative that measures be taken to help offset the increasing costs of a college degree. I was pleased that my concerns were met with such enthusiasm and bipartisan support from my colleagues on the Legislature. We are very fortunate to have Hudson Valley Community College and other great institutions of higher education in Rensselaer County, and we must do everything in our power to ensure that the opportunity to receive a college education remains open to everyone. The creation of a low-cost student loan program is definitely a step in the right direction, and I hope that the State Legislature will act swiftly and give our students some relief from the financial strain that many of them face.

Peter Grimm
Rensselaer County Legislator – District #1
Minority Member of the Education Committee