

Sam Welker
Gardiner High School

Concerned Montana citizens against high tuition costs:

I am strongly against the ridiculously high tuition rates for college in Montana. In my opinion the government should take action and drastically lower tuition for college.

There are only positive consequences for the lowering of tuition. A student that goes to Montana state university is likely to pay \$14,000 for one year alone. For a four year degree it is likely to cost \$56,000. This is similar to many other state schools. For example the University of Montana costs roughly \$40,000 for a 4 year degree. These rates are just outrageous. These rates discourage students and their families from getting a needed higher education. In this day in age you literally need some sort of higher education to get a successful job. With these prices it only makes the wealthy get an education and the poor suffer through a hard life of fast food employment.

A statistic I came onto was that 16 states increased tuition by more than 10% including Montana. Again this is ridiculous. The system in place now sets out youth up to fail. Yes maybe they can afford school through loans and some scholarships but all those loans have to be paid back. We should set an example for other states and lower tuition; rates have only been on the rise. The difference in collage revenue can come from slightly higher taxes that could go directly into the college system in place of the less income from students.

As you can see, the college system is designed to discourage students to get an education. This is America right? Everyone should have an equal chance in success. Lowering rates would help families put their kids through school and onto a bright future.

I will support any legislator that will fight against the outrageous rates of Montana college and oppose any that don't support the students.

This document is in compliance with the Montana YMCA Youth Legislature Lobbyist Disclosure Policy