



For Immediate Release

Contact: Craig Orfield  
(202) 224-6770

Wednesday June 28, 2006

**STATEMENT OF SENATOR MIKE ENZI, R-WY, CHAIRMAN,  
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR & PENSIONS**

**on Democrat's report: "The College Cost Crunch"**

**Washington, D.C.** - "Today's report greatly oversimplifies the challenges we face to make college more accessible and more affordable for all students. Institutions of higher education have been increasing tuition faster than Americans families or Federal financial aid programs can keep up. And the outlook is for more tuition increases," Enzi said.

"However, Congress is doing its part to make higher education more affordable. In fact, under Republican leadership, the maximum Pell grant award has increased by more than 75 percent with passage of The Higher Education Amendments Act of 2005 (HEA). In addition, the Deficit Reduction Act contained provisions making low-income college students eligible for about \$10 billion in new spending, including about \$4 billion in new needs-based grant aid – on top of Pell Grant funds already available.

"As Chairman of the HELP Committee, I am continuing to work with the Committee's Ranking Member, Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA) and our counterparts in the House, to develop a bipartisan bill that will reauthorize the Higher Education Act this year. We are focusing on a range of programs directed at retaining America's competitive edge in the global economy, and ensuring that higher education not only prepares students for tomorrow's workplace, but remains affordable for working families."

###