

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
July 20, 2007

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**STATEMENT OF SENATOR EDWARD M. KENNEDY ON THE PASSAGE OF THE HIGHER  
EDUCATION ACCESS ACT**

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Today, Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, released the following statement in response to the passage very early this morning by the United States Senate, by a vote of 78-18, of the Higher Education Access Act of 2007. The bill, sponsored by Senators Kennedy and Enzi, will provide more than \$17 billion to help students and families pay for college.

Senator Kennedy said, "The passage of the Higher Education Access Act tonight was a victory not only for students and their families, but for the American people. With this new congress we made education a national priority again, and we've given the next generation the tools they need to compete in the global economy. Not since the GI bill, has education been made such a priority in the nation's budget. Some of the most deserving students will attend college because of the Pell grant increase. The struggling middle class will see relief from debt with flexible repayment options and public service loan forgiveness. Today, the doors of opportunity were opened for millions of hardworking students and an investment was made in their futures."

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