



For Immediate Release

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***ENZI APPLAUDS SENATE PASSAGE OF HIGHER EDUCATION
PROVISIONS TO IMPROVE FEDERAL PROGRAMS,
EXPAND COLLEGE ACCESS***

Washington, D.C. - U.S. Senator Mike Enzi (R-WY), Ranking Member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, today applauded the Senate for passing key higher education reforms he said are critical to expand access to college, protect students from bad actors in the student loan industry, and provide students with clear information they need to understand and manage their debts.

The Senate approved the "Higher Education Amendments of 2007," S. 1642, today by a 95-0 vote.

"After over three years of negotiations, Republicans and Democrats have reached agreement on a number of key measures to help American students," Enzi said. "S. 1642 will restore students' trust in student loan programs by holding lenders and schools to a code of conduct. It will also ensure that students and parents have the information they need about the costs of college and the financial impact of their loans so they can make sound decisions about their futures."

Last week, the Senate passed by a 78-18 vote the Higher Education Access Act of 2007, S. 1762, which Enzi said was the first step toward making college more affordable. The HELP Committee approved S. 1762 and S. 1642 together in June, and Enzi has since been adamant that the full Senate take up the two bills together. On July 12, he wrote a letter, signed by 9 HELP Committee Republicans, urging the Majority Leader to bring up both bills in tandem.

"We need to enact both pieces of legislation because America's students must have all the tools they need to complete higher education and to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to become competitive in a 21st century economy," Enzi said.

"This year marks 50 years since Sputnik was launched. That launch sparked huge turmoil in this country and great worry about the knowledge and skills necessary to keep our economy growing and competitive. Sputnik had a dramatic effect on our education system. We are again being challenged. For millions of Americans access to an

affordable college education is the key to their success in the 21st century global economy. ”

Enzi said that key provisions of S. 1642, which the HELP Committee approved by a 20-0 vote, include:

- Providing consumer friendly, easy to access and understand, detailed information about college tuition and fees;
- Calling for the Department of Education and IRS to coordinate and automate the FAFSA process;
- Requiring the Department of Education to establish protocols for limiting and restoring access to the National Student Loan Data System, a database that contains personal financial information about student borrowers and their families and is used by students, schools, lenders, and guarantee agencies;
- Requiring colleges to establish Codes of Conduct to prohibit their financial aid employees from receiving anything of value in exchange for advantages sought by lenders; and,
- Expanding prohibitions on guaranty agencies and lenders that restrict the offering of any premiums, payments, prizes, and tuition payments.

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