

# Aim Higher Act

ACCESS | AFFORDABILITY | COMPLETION

## Democrats' *Aim Higher Act* vs. the GOP's *PROSPER Act*

*Comparing Higher Education Plans*

In December 2017 – just nine days before President Trump signed a nearly \$2 trillion giveaway to corporations and the wealthy – Republicans advanced the *PROSPER Act*, H.R. 4508, which **cuts nearly \$15 billion from federal student aid** and shifts federal dollars toward predatory, low-quality for-profit programs.

House Democrats have introduced a comprehensive alternative – the *Aim Higher Act*, H.R. 6543. For the less than half the cost of the GOP Tax Scam, this comprehensive higher education proposal **ensures every student has a path to a debt-free degree or credential that leads to a rewarding career.**

### Access to a Quality Degree

- **The *PROSPER Act*** puts corporate interests above students by handing for-profit institutions unprecedented access to federal funding while eliminating accountability for schools that defraud students and taxpayers. According to the CBO, the Republican bill would shift \$9 billion to for-profit and low-quality programs.
- **The *Aim Higher Act*** protects students, veterans, and taxpayers from predatory for-profit institutions, and assists colleges and universities in their efforts to improve student outcomes.
  - It strengthens accreditation standards and offers support to schools that struggle to meet them.
  - It closes the “90-10 loophole” that incentivizes for-profit institutions to aggressively recruit veterans.

### Affordability

- **The *PROSPER Act*** cuts \$15 billion from federal student aid and does nothing to reduce the cost of college. The result: more expensive student loans that are more difficult to repay.
- **The *Aim Higher Act*** gives every student the opportunity to earn a debt-free degree or credential that leads to a rewarding career.
  - **It reduces the cost of college today** by investing in and modernizing student financial aid so students are empowered to pursue a wider variety of high-quality and affordable degrees, including short-term credentials.
  - **It reduces the cost of college in the future** by creating a federal-state partnership that incentivizes states to reverse decades of underfunding in higher education. In exchange for federal funding, states must offer all students two years of free community college and must continue to invest in education to reduce the financial burden on students and families.

### More Graduates Entering the Workforce

- **The *PROSPER Act*** does nothing to help more students graduate. Instead, it eliminates services that help students complete their education and enter the workforce.
- **The *Aim Higher Act*** provides students the comprehensive support they need to graduate in a timely manner.
  - It provides students access to vital services, such campus-based childcare for student parents, transition assistance for veterans, and career counseling for students of all backgrounds.
  - It pushes schools to focus on students’ success by holding them accountable for college completion and workforce participation.