

# Tuition tax credit bill unfair claims lobby

by CAROLYN BEAVER  
of the Emerald

College tax credit legislation recently experienced a slowdown in Congress, but the issue is far from dead.

Sen. William Roth, R-Del., tried in December to deadlock a social security bill by attaching a tuition tax credit amendment, say-

ing. "It was the administration's decision to deadlock this conference report by denying a college tax credit to the millions of parents struggling to send their children to college."

In mid-December, the social security bill and tax credit amendment were separated, but Roth promised to revive the bill. Presently there are about 50 other tuition credit bills in Congress.

The Oregon Student Lobby (OSL) sent a mailgram to Roth in opposition to his amendment stating "a tax credit for higher education tuition would not direct sufficient relief to the middle income background students who need it most."

Robert Liberty, OSL legislative coordinator, believes the Roth amendment is a "regressive form of relief" and "extremely inequitable." He said the "inequity is evident when looking at the destination of the funds."

In a similar bill introduced by Roth last year, 78 percent of the credits would go to students from families with higher than \$20,000 annual income. Only six percent

of the funds would go to students from families with less than \$9,000 yearly income.

Also, as the Roth bill stands now, it entails the loss of about \$1.25 billion in tax revenue by allowing more than 2 million students a \$250 income tax tuition credit.

Liberty said the OSL "is very concerned about the plight of middle income families trying to pay rising tuition charges, but the Roth amendment is no solution. It would return money to students from high income families who need no assistance but cover only a fraction of the \$3,000 per year cost of higher education which burdens middle income families."

The OSL is in favor of "supplementing existing student aid programs as a more efficient and equitable alternative." Liberty said the income levels of students and their families could be extended in current student aid programs to make more middle class students eligible. He also said the OSL might support a more progressive tax credit bill, but it has yet to find and support one in the more than 500 tuition tax relief bills introduced over the past two decades.

A staff member for one of Oregon's congressmen has indicated to the OSL that he might consider submitting a progressive tax credit bill.



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## Students to find IFC info cards in spring registration packets

The Incidental Fee Committee (IFC) voted unanimously Wednesday night to appropriate funds to include an informative card about the IFC and its functions in spring registration packets.

Committee members feel not enough IFC information is available and said the cards would include several items.

IFC member Scott Bassett said there is not "enough information about what the IFC is. There isn't anything in the catalogue or time schedule. Elections and Emerald coverage are our only sources of information."

Students aren't necessarily apathetic about the IFC, they may not be informed, he said.

The Committee also voted unanimously to transfer \$70 from the emergency fund to the special projects fund to cover a deficit incurred last term.

One item covered in the card is the amount of incidental fees, (both per student and total). The card will note that students control the money and will also give office and phone numbers.

Interest on incidental fee money is usually pooled and returned to the State Board of Higher Education. This year, however, the money was allocated to various University programs; the majority went to cover the EMU deficit. The IFC received \$5,000. Bassett said in the future the IFC should have some control in the manner in which the money is spent and suggested the money go to lower student incidental fees.

In other business, the committee voted to advertise and hold its next meeting in the EMU Forum to attract more students. IFC member Jeff Warren suggested informal meetings be held in various living organizations to answer questions and create interest in the IFC.

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