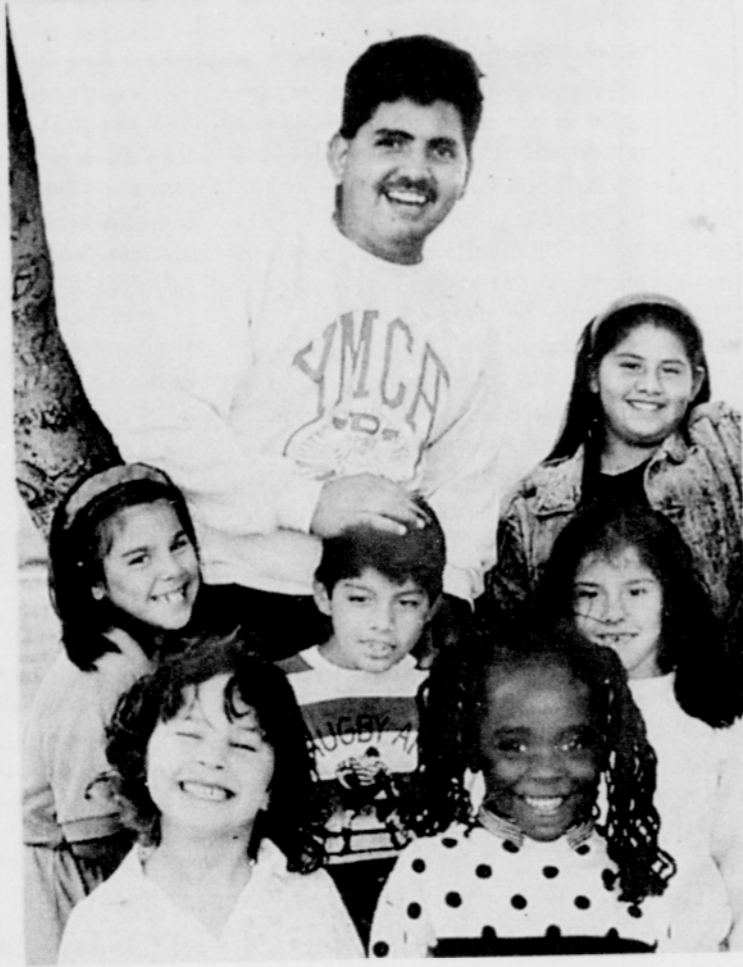


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**Coalition
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Federal student aid is on the chopping block in Washington, D.C., and an Oregon student-parent coalition isn't going to take it sitting down.

Parents, students, university administrators and U.S. Rep. Ron Wyden have formed the "Oregon Parents and Students for College Opportunities" coalition, a group dedicated to fighting proposed student aid cuts.

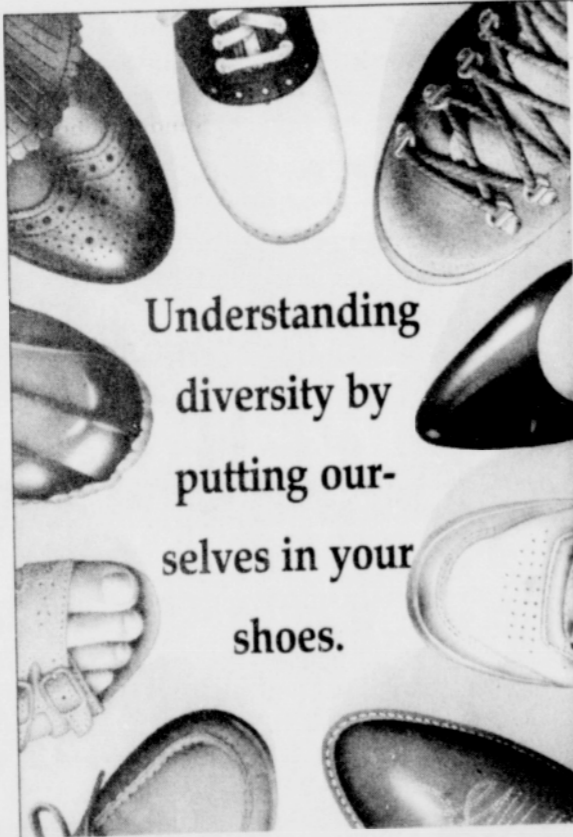
The cuts are mounting under current Republican Party proposals and several have already passed in the U.S. House of Representatives.

According to officials with U.S. Rep. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., the House has also voted to terminate funding for State Student Incentive Grants and to slash funding for TRIO grants.

More cuts aimed at key educational opportunity programs are being considered, including the elimination of federal interest payments on student loans while the student is in school, the Perkins loan, Supplemental Educational Opportunities Grants, work study programs and the direct student loan program.

"The best way to fight this is by getting the word out," said Wyden. "We'll use the Internet, this parent and student coalition... pull out all the stops to get the word out to preserve access to college for Oregon families."

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