

Bill would help families with college costs

By SHIRLEE IDEN

There seems to be a light at the end of the tunnel for parents of college students who fall in the middle-income range.

Rep. William Brodhead (D-Detroit) and Rep. William Ford (D-Taylor) have introduced a bill to provide increased student financial aid for middle income families with children in colleges and universities.

Providing for \$1.46 billion in grants, work study and loans in fiscal 1979, all within the framework of existing federal programs, the bill has the backing of President Carter.

Brodhead said he's been hearing complaints from constituents who have children in college at the great burden of paying for their educations. "Current programs are not of much help to middle income families," he said. "I've been working out this bill with Congressman Ford and we've designed a piece of legislation which would expand such programs for middle income families."

Brodhead said the cost of sending a young person to college has increased by 77 per cent in the past 10 years. Today, average costs for tuition,

room and board at a private college are over \$4,800 per year, a total of \$19,200 for the four years required to get a bachelor's degree, he said.

"At some colleges, these yearly costs have risen to \$7,000 or more and it's not just costs at private schools which have skyrocketed. At many public universities today, a student can be expected to pay over \$2,500 per year to cover education-related expenses."

Brodhead said many middle income families simply cannot bear the burden of these runaway costs.

"I believe it's vital that Congress make additional aid available to these families."

The bill worked out by Brodhead and Ford is called the Middle Income Student Assistance Act and it proposes to increase three existing federal aid programs and broaden the financial eligibility rules.

First, the bill would augment the Basic Educational Opportunity Grant (BEOG) program by \$2.1 billion with the maximum grant increased from \$1,600 to \$1,800. The family income eligibility figure will increase from the current \$15,000 to \$25,000.

Current BEOG programs give grants to 2.2 million students. Under the Brodhead-Ford Bill, 3.1 million additional students could receive grants.

"I would have liked to see the family income eligibility figure even higher than \$25,000 but it's a good beginning," Brodhead said.

The bill increases the 80 per cent of salary for a student's part-time job under the work study program from \$45 million to \$60 million, providing work opportunities for 280,000 new students.

THE GUARANTEED Student Loan program which guarantees loan repayments and subsidizes interest costs will be increased by \$297 million to

\$300 million. The family-income limit would be raised from \$30,000 to \$45,000.

This will make loans available to 250,000 new students with interest subsidies worth up to \$500 per year.

"This makes it possible for the student to go to school and not have to pay back his loans until his education is complete," Brodhead said.

Brodhead called the bill "a step forward," admitting he got a bit hot under the collar when there was talk of cutting off eligibility for families at a lower level.



WILLIAM BRODHEAD

Southfield debaters win state honors

Southfield High School took first and third place honors in a statewide debating competition last week, in an event that was a double victory for Southfield High School coach Art Voison.

Voison's former protegee John Lawson led his Southfield-Lathrup debating team to first place in the Michigan Interscholastic Forensic Association Championship Debates Feb. 9-11 in Grand Rapids. Voison's Southfield High team came in third.

Both Southfield teams have consistently placed among the top 10 class A teams in Michigan for many years.

The debates were held this year in the grand ballroom of the Pankind Hotel in Grand Rapids, where the Southfield-Lathrup team of Ben Frank and Richard Ellis beat the Belleville High School team.

This was the third state debating championship for the school since 1970.

The Southfield High School team of Neil Natanson and Howard Berlin,

narrowly lost to Belleville during the semi-finals, giving Southfield High a third place.

The top eight teams will be presented with walnut trophies. The two finalists will receive wristwatches from the Detroit Free Press.

The University of Michigan and the Detroit Free Press co-sponsored the debates, which included more than 10,000 students from 300 high schools in the preliminary matches. The finals included 370 students.

Other Oakland County winners in the tournament were Kieren Mullen and Greg Bousquette, who won the Class B division championship for Brother Rice High School of Birmingham, and Katie Kelleher and Peggy Burns, who won the Class C-D championship for Marion High School of Birmingham.

Southfield-Lathrup is now eligible to compete in the national Forensic League National Debate Tournament at Northwestern University in Illinois in June. 30

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