

**Congratulations everyone!!!** Your hard work paid off. The "College Student Relief Act of 2007" which cuts interest rates on student loans **PASSED the House floor by a vote of 356 to 71!**

AMSA chapters across the country turned out in droves to support the legislation. **On our National Day of Action last Thursday, January 11, 2007 AMSA members sent 7,884 emails and logged over 2,000 phone calls through [www.amsa.org's](http://www.amsa.org's) "Legislative Action Center."** This does not include the hundreds of individual chapter efforts ranging from a mass "fax-in" of letters at Texas A&M to the "free cookie for a letter" tabling at Drexel in Pennsylvania. Our coordinator, Jason Davis, received many, many emails from student across the country detailing their participation.

In conjunction with the College Affordability Campaign partner groups, we had an enormously **successful Press Conference** last Thursday with the highlight being Sen. Kennedy talking about the reason why the student loans got cut last year--because the students were not vocal enough! He told us that he wanted a "thunder through the halls of Congress," and he talked about how John F. Kennedy won his election campaigning on the issue of student loans! Well, we certainly aren't silent any more. **This bill was just one of many steps we need to take to make medical school more affordable for every student who wants to attend! SOOOO, what is next:**

**NEXT STEP:** the bill goes to the Senate. And boy are they ready for it--all your calls and emails had Senate offices contacting me to assure me that they were going to vote for it when it comes! I think that we have a strong chance of it passing the Senate. But here is where it gets tricky--the President has threatened to veto the bill if it passes. So watch out, we may need to do a White House call-in/email in the future. Also, more student loan related legislation will be coming through the pipeline in the future--restoring funding to the Pell Grant program, Direct Lending, etc.

Our next Action Alert will focus on an important related issue--**increasing the Physician Workforce**--expanding excellent programs like the National Health Service Corps which funds student's medical school in exchange for practice in an underserved area, as well as working to recruit underserved populations to the medical profession. We have serious shortages of physicians in areas we need them most--and we need to find creative solutions to have our physician population reflect the national population.

Thank you for all your hard work, and Congratulations again for taking a step towards political change--next time, it will be even easier to do! Please contact me if you are interested in being involved further in our legislative activism on any topic. **I hope that you will consider coming to our annual amazing professional development event--AMSA's National Convention, March 7-11, 2007. Join us to Lobby Congress on Thursday, March 8, 2007.** Come meet in-person the staffers and legislators that you emailed and phoned! Lobby Topic will be announced next week. Headlined by six outstanding keynotes including **Dr. Paul Farmer and Dr. Sanjay Gupta**--this 2007 Convention is **NOT TO BE MISSED!!!** More information and register before its too late at <http://www.amsa.org/conv/> !!!! Less than two months to go!

Thanks very much,  
Sincerely,  
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Pelosi: Student Loan Bill Will Make College Education More Affordable and More Accessible

Washington, D.C. - Speaker Nancy Pelosi released the following statement today on H.R. 5, the College Student Relief Act of 2007, which cuts the interest rates on student loans and passed on the House floor by a vote of 356 to 71, with all Democrats and 124 Republicans voting for the bill:

"Today's bipartisan vote to cut the interest rate in half on federally subsidized student loans over the next five years will help make a college education more affordable and more accessible for our next generation of leaders and innovators. At a time when college tuition continues to skyrocket, this crucial legislation will help remove some of the barriers to a higher education.

"A college education is the best investment our nation's young people can make in themselves, and the best investment our nation can make in its future. Democrats will continue to work to ensure that every young person that is determined to earn a higher education is able to do so. Our young people should be driven by their dreams, not weighed down by debt."