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## Senate Speeches on the Arts and Humanities (1994-1996): Speech 45

Claiborne Pell

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Statement of Senator Claiborne Pell (D, RI)  
on Budget Reconciliation and Cuts to Education  
October 12, 1995  
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As I have indicated on numerous occasions, I believe it very important that students and their families be taken out of harm's way in budget reconciliation.

I am deeply concerned, therefore, with the package that the Labor Committee is sending to the floor. Institutional fees, increased interest rates, decreasing the Direct Loan Program, and reducing the student interest subsidy during the grace period are measures that harm students and their families. To my mind, this is not the route we should be traveling.

Perhaps even more important, I am concerned with what increasingly appears to be an erosion of bipartisan support that has long been the hallmark of federal aid to education. Students and their families are at risk not only in terms of cuts in the loan program. They are clearly at risk due to cuts to programs like Title I, Safe and Drug Free Schools, Goals 2000, and Vocational Education.

I want to make as clear as I can that enough is enough. It is time that we further the vital education programs that our nation's students depend on. Once and for all, we must understand that the best way to reduce the deficit that hangs over us is through a strong economy supported by a well-educated and well-trained workforce.