

# Editorial page

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in April,  
door

## Allowing Student Loans Increases the Cost of Education at All Levels

Andy Ford, President of the Florida Education Association, is a typical Tallahassee "education" liberal. His letter ["Gov. Scott's Mention of Education Funding Does Not Hide His Priorities," May 31] seeks more funding for education, which at first glance seems good, but is it?

It's funny that every time Congress raises student loan limits, and students can take out deeper debts, colleges mysteriously jack up tuition to match. (Economists will recognize that as the government distorting the free market.)

This dishonest kneejerk reaction is not limited solely to colleges: Even grade schools, when given more monies (be they state or federal) mysteriously find news expenses — and jack up costs to the taxpayers.

Have you ever wondered why college tuition has skyrocketed to absurd amounts, while a Big Mac at McDonald's has remained almost the same price for the last several decades? Yes! That's right: When we tinker with the free market and "enable" debt-addiction, then prices go up to match.

This costs us twice: First, students have skyrocketing tuition, and second, universities' addiction to funding was enabled by taxpayer monies.

While my gut feeling doesn't trust Gov. Rick Scott, if he is indeed pushing to privatize public schools, then perhaps prices will drop — as the free market will not tolerate price-gouging. I only wish that we would not have begun college loans: Perhaps then, tuition would not be absurdly skyrocketing.

However, one last gut-wrenching fact needs to be aired: College loans do not have standard bankruptcy protections that even credit cards have. Perhaps we should "just say no" to "student aid," and trash this failed system — and return to the system of the past that had low tuition and some of the smartest college grads in the world. For more information, visit [StudentLoanJustice.org](http://StudentLoanJustice.org).

**GORDON WAYNE WATTS**  
Lakeland

On Matters of Religion

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