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Contact: Kate Brewster, 401-486-9532 (cell)

kbrewster@economicprogressri.org

College Tuition Hikes in Rhode Island Among Worst

In Country, New Report Shows

Providence, RI - Governor Chaffee's proposal to increase state spending on higher education by \$6 million and freeze tuition is critical to Rhode Island students, families and the economy - given findings from a new report by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities in Washington, D.C.

The report shows that since 2008, the increase in the average tuition at public four year colleges in the Ocean State was the 7th highest in the nation at \$2,907 per student. Nationally, tuition grew by \$1,850 per student.

This is not surprising given the state's investment in higher education dropped by \$1,719 per student since 2008 when adjusted for inflation, a decrease of close to 25 percent, according to the report.

"A well educated workforce attracts new businesses and is crucial to economic growth for the state. Governor Chafee's proposed increase in spending on higher education provides hope for local students and families that the tide is turning and that young people will have greater opportunities to attend college," said Kate Brewster, Executive Director of the Economic Progress Institute.

To reverse these trends, Rhode Island lawmakers need to make higher education a priority by supporting the Governor's proposal to increase state investments by \$6 million. A large and growing share of jobs will require college-educated workers, and the only way to make sure Rhode Island students are prepared is to keep higher education affordable.

"More jobs in the future will require college-educated workers," said Phil Oliff, policy analyst at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and author of the report released today. "For the sake of its economy and future workforce, Rhode Island should start reinvesting in its colleges and universities now."

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The Center's full report can be found at: <http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=3927>.



The Economic Progress Institute, a non-partisan research and policy organization that works to ensure the economic security of low- and modest-income Rhode Islanders. www.economicprogressri.org.

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities is a non-partisan research and policy institute which works at the federal and state levels on fiscal policy and public programs that affect low- and moderate-income families and individuals. www.cbpp.org.