

**Education:** TABOR has unintentionally crushed our education system. This must be fixed. Our investment in education per capita is one of the lowest in the country. Our teacher's pay is ranked 45<sup>th</sup> out of 50 states – but our economy is #1 (US News & World Report/McKinsey data). Education is the key to financial wellbeing and success. Why on earth wouldn't we invest in this?

Yes, we need to put apprentice and technical training into our Community Colleges. But, I would also suggest that we encourage potential students with limited resources to go to their Community College for their first 2 years and then transfer to a 4 year college for their degree. Much less expensive and the student can see if they are cut out for college. If not, change their major to an apprentice program or a technical skill. Let's keep in mind that not every person wants or should go to college. However, that doesn't mean they shouldn't maximize their education and earning potential to their ability and goals.

There is a petition being circulated to get the 1982 Gallagher Amendment fixed. This would put additional money into our education system and would only effect people earning over \$150,000 per year. And if you are in that higher income group, wouldn't you want **YOUR** children to have the best education possible?

And college debt? Well, I'm old enough to have had the benefit of a state supported University. I could work for Allied Van Lines for 3 months (and did) during the summer and completely pay for my tuition, books, room and board for the rest of the year. That meant that anyone could get a college degree if they wanted one. My school, the University of Minnesota, had 44,000 students. We need to find a way to financially help our students. If not with lower tuition, then offer them public service jobs in Colorado where they can have their student debt reduced or eliminated. We can do this.

Education is the key to success for everyone.