

EDUCATION

One of DeFazio's proudest accomplishments remains the more than \$225,000 in after-tax salary he has used to fund 134 individual scholarships and to reduce the national debt. Peter DeFazio votes against the large congressional pay raises and gives the money back. For more than a decade he linked his pay to cost of living adjustments for Social Security recipients. He uses the pay raises to fund scholarships for dislocated workers at five community colleges in southwest Oregon. The 2000 decennial redistricting added a substantial portion of Josephine County to the 4th C.D., even though Rogue Community College isn't located in the district, DeFazio has established scholarships there to help people living in the district who attend school at RCC.

As a recipient of financial aid, DeFazio understands the importance of financial aid in helping students achieve a higher education. He supports increased funding for student loans and grants. He also worked to establish a provision in the tax code to allow graduate students to exempt tuition waivers from income tax.

DeFazio supported the bipartisan education reform and accountability legislation enacted in 2001. He has also supported efforts to ensure that this legislation is fully funded. DeFazio believes that when the federal government imposes mandates on local schools, then federal money should follow to fulfill those mandates.

"The governor and funding agencies pick Rep. DeFazio as their 'donor of the year'"
The Register-Guard, 3/16/04

"DeFazio noted for donations to education"
Umpqua Post, 4/7/04

"[DeFazio's record on education is clear – he has fought for more funding for higher education on the state level and has worked with the President to procure more money for financial aid and student loans."
Daily Emerald, October 26, 2000

In the 108th Congress (2003-2004)

- ▶ DeFazio voted against the House Republican budget resolution because it under-funded the commitments of the No Child Left Behind Act by nearly \$8.8 billion in fiscal year 2005 alone.
- ▶ DeFazio voted in favor of a budget amendment, H. Res. 685, by Representative Obey to boost education spending in fiscal year 2005 by \$5.7 billion, which would have meant \$21.7 million more for Oregon programs for disadvantaged students, \$14.3 million for Oregon programs for disabled students, and \$22.8 million more for Pell Grants for higher education.

The amendment was paid for by scaling back the tax cuts for millionaires from \$120,000 a year to \$24,000. The Obey amendment was defeated.

- ▶ In January 2003, DeFazio introduced a comprehensive economic stimulus bill that included \$5 billion to repair and upgrade our nation's crumbling school infrastructure.
- ▶ DeFazio joined Rep. Rahm Emanuel in introduced H.R. 1738, the American Parity Act, which required that the education, infrastructure, and social services investments U.S. taxpayers are being forced to make in Iraq be matched dollar for dollar by investments in similar activities here at home.
- ▶ Awarded the "Outstanding Service to Oregon" award from the University of Oregon Alumni Association, June 6, 2003.
- ▶ Named "Donor of the Year" for 2003 by the National Scholarship Providers Association in recognition of his commitment to redirecting proceeds from congressional pay raises into college scholarships.
- ▶ Recognized for lifetime achievements and contributions to the district and state—contributions are noteworthy and have improved the lives of many Oregonians, Alpha Kappa Alpha, 2004.
- ▶ **H.R. 4613 also included \$2.5 million for the ONAMI Safer Nanomaterials and Nanomanufacturing Initiative and \$2.5 million for the ONAMI Miniature Tactical Energy Systems Development Initiative that was requested by DeFazio.** The Oregon Nanoscience and Microtechnologies Institute (ONAMI) is a collaboration between government, industry and higher education, and is located on the campuses of Oregon's major research universities: Oregon State University, Portland State University and the University of Oregon. ONAMI will develop nanomaterials and nanomanufacturing methods that simultaneously meet the military's need for high performance materials, protect human health, and minimize harm to the environment.
- ▶ **DeFazio obtained \$25,000 in H.R. 2673 for Southwest Oregon Community College** to augment college programs providing training and retraining to the unemployed, but especially older dislocated workers.
- ▶ **H.R. 2673 also included \$50,000 for the University of Oregon School of Music that was requested by DeFazio.** This funding will be used to equip classrooms and practice areas as part of a larger effort to expand the School of Music.
- ▶ In the Commerce, Justice and State portion of H.R. 2673, the fiscal year 2004 Consolidated Appropriations Act, **DeFazio secured \$450,000 for the Lane County Breaking the Cycle Program.** In December of 1998, the Lane County Department of Youth Services was awarded a National Institute of Justice grant of \$2 million for two years to address juvenile substance abuse and crime. This additional funding will help to ensure continuation of the program, which will allow Lane County to complete the assessment phase of the project and

document the program's effectiveness.

- ▶ DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 2366, legislation to suspend some of the provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act until the federal government fully funds its portion of the law.
- ▶ DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 1094, legislation to achieve full funding of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) by 2008.
- ▶ DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 936, the Leave No Child Behind Act, which distinguishes itself from the President's education initiative by focusing on a more holistic approach to children's well-being. H.R. 936 includes provisions to expand access to health care, child care, and family leave. The legislation also includes a strategy for dealing with juvenile justice.
- ▶ DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 1306, legislation to provide student loan forgiveness for students who enter public service in a variety of areas, including: (1) highly qualified teachers in low-income communities and of mathematics, science, and bilingual and special education; (2) early childhood educators; (3) nurses; (4) child welfare workers; (5) nutrition professionals; (6) infant and toddler specialists; and (6) other highly-qualified workers who serve low-income or needy communities and who are in public service professions that suffer from a critical lack of qualified personnel.
- ▶ DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 236, the Student Bill of Rights, legislation to require the Secretary of Education to certify the extent to which each public school enables students to: (1) acquire knowledge and skills necessary for responsible citizenship; (2) meet challenging academic achievement standards; and (3) compete and succeed in a global economy. The legislation ensures accountability to these goals by withholding a portion of the federal aid to schools who don't make adequate progress.
- ▶ DeFazio contacted House appropriators in support of increased funding for a variety of critical elementary and secondary education programs including: Head Start, 21st Century Learning Centers (after-school programs), dropout prevention, math and science programs, arts education, the National Writing Project, and TRIO.
- ▶ DeFazio has also contacted House appropriators in support of increased funding for higher education programs like Pell Grants, Perkins loans, and university funding through the National Science Foundation.

In the 107th Congress (2001-2002)

- ▶ DeFazio voted in favor of H.R. 1, the bipartisan education reform and accountability legislation known as the No Child Left Behind Act.

- ▶ Cosponsor of H.R. 1076, the "America's Better Classroom Act," and H.R. 340, the "Excellence and Accountability in Education Act," legislation to repair, rebuild, and construct new public schools and hire more teachers with the goal of improving the conditions in America's public schools so kids are better able to learn.
- ▶ Author of H.R. 1921, the "Federal Financial Aid Regulatory Relief Act," legislation eliminating the requirement for student loan applicants to be registered with the Selective Service in order to receive financial aid.
- ▶ Cosponsor of H.R. 1162, the "21st Century Higher Education Act," a comprehensive bill to expand federal support for higher education, including increased funding for financial aid. H.R. 1162 was drafted by the Ranking Democrat on the Education and Workforce Committee.
- ▶ Received the American Federation of Teachers Quality Service Award for outstanding efforts and steadfast support for legislation to advance the interests of children, public education, public employees and working families.
- ▶ H.J.Res. 2 also included \$50,000 for the E-Commerce Training Center at Umpqua Community College and \$50,000 for the after school programs in the Junction City School District, both of which were requested by DeFazio.
- ▶ Secured \$50,000 in H.R. 3061 for the University of Oregon's Museum of Natural History. This funding will be used to make improvements to the University of Oregon Museum of Natural History's research collection storage facility. The current facility is inadequate for historical archives.
- ▶ Secured \$750,000 in H.R. 2500, the fiscal year 2002 Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations bill (signed into law on November 28, 2001) for the Breaking the Cycle program in Lane County and an additional \$750,000 in H.J. Res. 2, the fiscal year 2003 Omnibus Appropriations Act, which was signed into law on February 20, 2003.
- ▶ Secured \$150,000 in H.R. 2620, the fiscal year 2002 VA-HUD Appropriations bill, for the Boys & Girls Club of Albany. The funds will assist with construction of a 35,000 square foot addition to their existing facilities. The new addition will provide the Club with a total of 65,000 square feet and will include separation areas for elementary, middle and high school age children. The new addition will expand the computer learning center capabilities from 14 to 54 stations, provide two more full-sized gymnasiums, and will allow the development of new kitchen facilities enabling the Club to increase its daily meal programs for children. H.R. 2620 was signed into law on November 26, 2001.
- ▶ Drafted legislation, H.R. 2731, the "School Energy Assistance Act," along with Representative Baird to provide federal grants to schools hit hard by rising energy prices.
- ▶ Received National Forest Counties and Schools Coalition Distinguished Service Award in appreciation for his dedication and commitment to the Forest Counties and Schools of

America.

- ▶ Received the Congressional Youth Leadership Council Award for his commitment to educating today's young leaders for their future roles.

In the 106th Congress (1999-2000)

- ▶ Successfully brokered compromise legislation, H.R. 2389, to guarantee increased federal timber sale payments to state and local governments for schools and road projects. DeFazio authored H.R. 1185 and H.R. 2868, bills to establish a permanent inflation-adjusted "safety net" for timber-dependant counties throughout the U.S. When these bills were blocked by House leadership, and with an alternate proposal blocked by a threatened Administration veto, DeFazio worked to break the legislative gridlock on the controversial issues and hammered out a compromise signed into law on October 30, 2000. The legislation means \$261 million annually for Oregon counties, an increase in annual payments of \$114 million.

In the 105th Congress (1997-1998)

- ▶ Led a group of more than sixty Member of Congress in successfully opposing a provision in the House-passed tax package repealing section 117(d) of the tax code. This provision provides tax-exempt status for the nominal value of scholarships, fellowships, and tuition and fee waivers received by graduate students working as teaching or research assistants. DeFazio worked with students all over the country to ensure the provision was dropped from the final tax package. DeFazio authored similar provisions in a law approved in the 100th Congress making this provision permanent (see below).

- ▶ Led successful effort in the House to increase funding for the National Guard's Youth Challenge Program. When first considered, the House Department of Defense funding bill for fiscal year 1999 cut funding for the Youth Challenge Program by \$10 million from last year's level, putting Oregon's program in jeopardy. As a result of his efforts, the final funding bill, H.R.4103, includes a \$12 million increase over last year's funding level. Not only did this allow Oregon's program to continue, it was expanded to a full year program. The legislation was signed into law on October 17, 1998.

In the 103rd Congress (1993-1994)

- ▶ Author of H.R. 453, the "Education Reform and Flexibility Act." This legislation would establish a national demonstration program to provide schools with increased flexibility to design curriculums. Major portions of this legislation were included in H.R.1804, the GOALS 2000 Act, enacted on March 31, 1994.

- ▶ Facing the prospect of greatly reduced timber sale payments to county governments in

Oregon, DeFazio worked with the Clinton Administration and county governments to craft a 10-year guaranteed safety net for Western Oregon counties, many of whom are highly dependent on federal timber sale receipts for services such as law enforcement and public health. The new formula is an entitlement that will require no annual appropriation. It was included in the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993, H.R.2264, enacted on August 10, 1993.

- ▶ DeFazio led the fight to save The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) to help provide food commodities to children and poor working families. The Clinton Administration recommended cancellation of this program, but DeFazio mobilized 103 House Members in an effort to fund the program. His coalition was able to restore \$25 million for food commodities and \$40 million for administration of the program.

In the 100th Congress (1987-1988)

- ▶ Author of H.R. 4332, a bill to make permanent the income tax exemption granted to graduate students for tuition waivers. The bill was included with a \$1,500 exemption cap in the Technical Corrections Act of 1988, H.R. 4333, which was signed into law on November 10, 1988.