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FLORIDA'S 22ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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Klein Supports Higher Education Opportunity Act

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Ron Klein (FL-22) today voted with a bipartisan majority of his House colleagues to pass important legislation making a college education more accessible and affordable for all Americans.

The bill, the final compromise between the U.S. House and Senate on the Higher Education Opportunity Act (H.R. 4137), encourages colleges to rein in price increases, simplifies the federal student aid process, makes textbook costs more manageable and expands college access for minority students and military veterans.

“As a parent of two college-aged students and the son of a public school teacher, I believe that one of the most important things in life is to get a good education,” Klein said. “The opportunity to earn a college degree is a fundamental part of the American dream, and we have taken action to make sure that opportunity is available to every hard-working student, regardless of financial situation.”

Today’s legislation rewards colleges and university that keep their tuition low, like many in the Florida state system, which have some of the lowest tuition rates in the country. The bill also contains a variety of consumer-friendly measures, including: requiring publishers to disclose textbook prices up front; simplifying the federal student aid process; and creating an easy-to-use website showing the real cost of college, including tuition, room and board, which will help students and parents make informed decisions.

The bill also cleans up the student loan process and provides loan forgiveness to targeted, high-priority professionals like teachers and nurses who make a commitment to the community. Important provisions also improve access to college for minority and low-income students, as well as military veterans, by creating scholarships and expanding existing Pell grants from \$5,800 to \$8,000.

Congressman Klein has been a long-time advocate for access to higher education, dating back to his service in the Florida State House and Senate.

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