

Title: The Constitution Essay

Lane Reese

Civics

Grybos

Shamokin

12/3/18

The US Constitution is the law for running or managing the United States government. The constitution has 7 Articles and 27 Amendments. It lays out the separation of powers to the three branches of government: executive, legislative and judicial. It also describes the way states are to be run and how they are to manage their governments. The amendments are written for several reasons and usually to make changes or redefine the original constitution. Amendment examples can be changes to processes and procedures, changes to protecting individual rights or to restrict government power. The constitution discusses rights and believes in the right to an education but, it is not spelled out clearly. This is why I would like to propose the 28th Amendment as the right to a quality education.

The Constitution is necessary for enforcing laws and having a checks and balances in government. However, it is an old document and over time there are events that make it necessary for government to consider changes or amendments. An amendment may be proposed either by the Congress with a two-thirds majority vote in both the House of Representatives and the Senate or by a constitutional convention called for by two-thirds of the State legislatures. (1) The 14th Amendment, section 4 forbids states from restricting the basic rights of citizens. I think this is the same amendment used to require states to provide citizens with public education systems. I don't understand how the constitution gets misinterpreted. Why is it back on the state? Why not define the right to an education?

The 28th Amendment would also give all citizens the right to an affordable education. To provide a lower cost education may require changing the ways government spends money. I am sure taxes would have to increase but, there could be ways that would help cover the costs. Students are now collecting 80 billion dollars in financial aid that is government money and they

don't have to pay back. Perhaps that money could be better used to pay for school operational expenses and salaries. (2) Students are graduating now with a huge debt and the interest is unaffordable. At the very least interest rates could be made lower.

I plan to go to college and I want it to be affordable. I want to be able to buy a home, a car, etc. Tuition today is high. What will it be like in 4 years? I think society and the economy would benefit from lower tuition or free tuition. More people would pursue degrees or going to a trade school. There would be more skilled workers and hopefully less people on welfare.

I hope someone in the government recognizes and addresses the right to education within the constitution. It would make the issue of expensive and unaffordable tuitions a higher priority with our legislators. There are several countries that have free or cheap tuition universities like France and Germany. England has a pay after you graduate policy and it depends on your income the amount you pay back. (3)

Sources:

(1) "Constitutional Amendment Process." *National Archives | Federal Register*. 3 December 2018 <https://www.archives.gov/federal-register/constitution>

(2) "Should College Be Free? Pros, Cons, and Alternatives." *Trade Schools Colleges and Universities*. 3 December 2018 <https://www.trade-schools.net/articles/should-college-be-free.asp>

(3) "How Much Does it Cost to Study in the UK?." *Top Universities*. 3 December 2018 <https://www.topuniversities.com/student-info/student-finance/how-much-does-it-cost-study-uk>