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L.I. U

Hillary Rodham Clinton, C. W. Post Campus of
L. I. U.

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Thank you so much Chuck. I remember very well in that 1998 campaign here on Long Island and throughout the state campaigning for you and for your commitment to New York the issue of making college tuition tax deductible was one that I wholeheartedly endorsed and you brought that to the forefront of the political agenda in 1998 and you have been the crusader on behalf of that issue as well as so many others.

I just have to say as I travel around the state I meet people who are so grateful to you for the work that you've already done to create the kind of partnership we need. Chuck just came from Buffalo where thanks to his leadership we are going to have some good airfare different cities in New York which will finally be served, which will be a great boon to the economy that will help all of New York. And on so many others issues, he's not only been an advocate and a crusader but has a lot of results already to show for it.

And I am looking forward to working side by side with Chuck in the US Senate to make sure that New York has the loudest most effective voice that it can possibly have. And I know that all of you are here today because you believe the importance of education. I want to thank those who are gathered here starting with Chancellor Mallarky who is a fellow graduate of Wellesley College, where I went to school and has been a long time leader on behalf of higher education.

In a few minutes, we are going to meet the panelists, who are here who are really the experts in what Chuck and I are talking about, because they are the students and the parents who are staying up late at night trying to figure out how to get that money that is needed and then how to pay it back. It's a huge burden on so many families I appreciate what Tess said because she like so many college administrators that I have talked to around the state, they spend a great deal of their time trying to make sure that no deserving student is left out of college. But unfortunately it does happen.

We know how important college is today and we know how essential it is that it be a pathway to a better job and a better future. And I am pleased that here in New York we've got so many young people taking advantage of going to college. More than 80% of New York's students go on to some form of higher education and nearly one million attend college here in New York. But when I look at the statistics and the depending on the campus where they come from, you have anywhere from a half to 90% of the students needing some kind of financial assistance.

That's why in the US Senate, I will be on your side to be a partner with Chuck in fighting to make college more affordable for all New Yorkers. As I said on Sunday when I announced my campaign I may be new to the neighborhood but I am not new to your concerns. And as the parent of a child who is currently in college, I am certainly not new to the concerns of paying for college and it is something that so many of us have in common and so many of us worry about.

You know most parents that I know whose children are young are already worrying about how they will afford college. As I have been traveling around the state and sitting in people's living rooms or dens or on their porches or in their backyards, it is the one issue that comes up from one end of the state to the next. So it is not just when a child is in high school and the brochures start coming and the SAT and other test dates are set that people worry.

It really starts in the very beginning of a child's life. Parents say how am I going to pay in order that my child will be able to attend college and have that gateway to the jobs that are available. Therefore it is time for us to face up to the fact that the average tuition has doubled in the last twenty years and yet family incomes and financial aid have not kept pace.

So I believe along with Chuck that we have got to make college tuition affordable and I will work side by side with him to pass a thirty billion college opportunity tax cut to help middle class families to pay for college. It will give families a tax deduction of up to \$10,000 a year in tuition costs, providing as much as \$2800 in tax relief.

I know also that some of the real struggle over paying for college is that most parents with children in college are part of the generation Chuck and I are part of which is the

sandwich generation. So that in addition to worrying about college, many of us worry about our parents or even our grandparents. And how we can make that their needs are met and still have enough money to send our children to college. Many of our family's budgets are stretched really thin on both ends of the age spectrum.

So I also support a long-term care tax credit to help families cope with the financial demands of caring for their parents. I have met with families who have had to tell their children, they're not sure if they will be able to afford to pay for college, because they've taken in a mother or a father or an aunt or an uncle with Alzheimer's and so they are trying to keep that relative at home for as long as possible.

So as Senator I too will fight to make that kind of care giving and family responsibility more affordable by fighting for a \$3,000 tax credit to help families care for an aging or ailing loved one at home. And that's a credit that would benefit about 158,000 New York families. I also think that we could do more by easing the marriage penalty and that is a hot issue in the Congress right now, but some of you may still not be aware of that married couples are taxed at a higher rate than if they remained single and I think that we should increase the standard deduction for couples in order to reduce that penalty.

But do it in a way that enables us to also to take care of college costs, and care giving costs and Social Security and Medicare. I also support tax cuts that enable more Americans who don't itemize on their income tax returns to take a tax deduction for charitable giving. And to raise the limits for donations of property and security to places like this university for example. When I held a White House conference on philanthropy that was one of the number one requests to enable people who don't itemize to give some credit on their taxes for what they do to help other people. And I am a strong supporter of that. You know in this time, higher education is not a luxury. This has been something that all of us have recognized. And really the roots of this university really came out of the wonderful movement in our country after World War II with the GI bill to begin to enable more and more people to go on to college. Well today, it's even more of a necessity. And we have with us some people who are living at that necessity. A