

Lundine Supports Tax Credits

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WASHINGTON, D. C. — Rep. Stanley N. Lundine, D-Jamestown, Thursday voted to provide federal income tax credits to families paying college and university tuition costs. The legislation was approved in the house.

Under the provision of the Tuition Tax Credit Act, HR-12050, middle and low income families will benefit most, Lundine said. Twenty-five percent of tuition costs up to \$100 in 1978, \$150 in 1979 and \$250 in 1980 will be allowed if this legislation becomes law.

"I recognize the financial hardships which many families face in providing a college education for their children. For that reason I've long endorsed the concept of giving relief for some of these costs with income tax credits.

"An added advantage of this legislation is the use of the existing system, the Federal income tax to provide aid without additional bureaucrat processing, Lundine said. Full-time students and some part-time students enrolled in college and university baccalaureate or associate degree programs qualify for tuition aid under this three-year program.

Within the same legislation Thursday members of the House or of Representatives approved an amendment which extended the tuition tax credit to payments to private, non-public elementary and secondary schools — the Vanik Amendment. Rep. Lundine opposed that amendment because "I think it will weaken our public school system, particularly in this time of declining enrollments. In addition, the concept of providing that aid for private pre-college tuitions remains one of le constitutionality.

"It was my feeling, however, that the advantages gained by the approval of college and university credits outweighed any disadvantages of this total bill. I am pleased with the progress we have made towards providing tax credits for parents of college and university students." Lundine said.