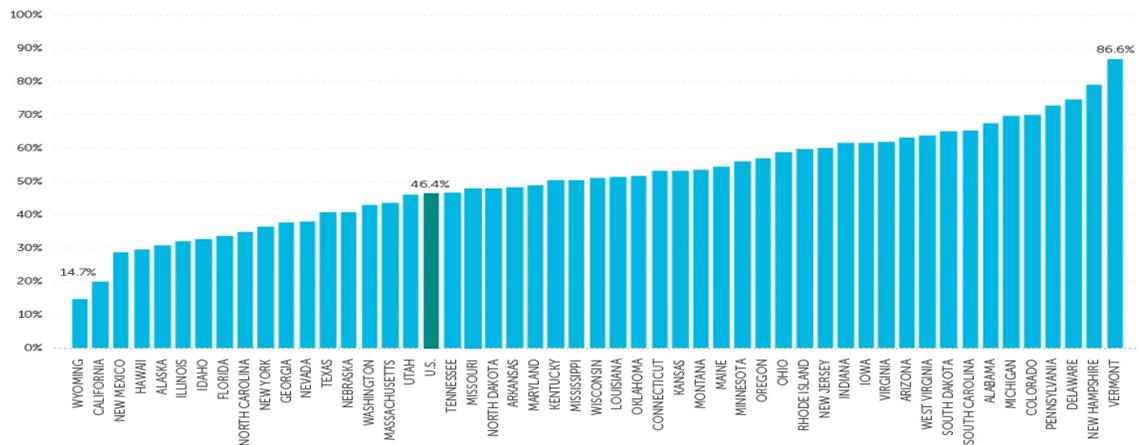




Defining the Problem:

- Vermont currently ranks 50th (dead last) for state support for public higher education. This means that most of the revenue comes from tuition:

FIGURE 6
NET TUITION AS A PERCENT OF TOTAL EDUCATIONAL REVENUE, FY 2017

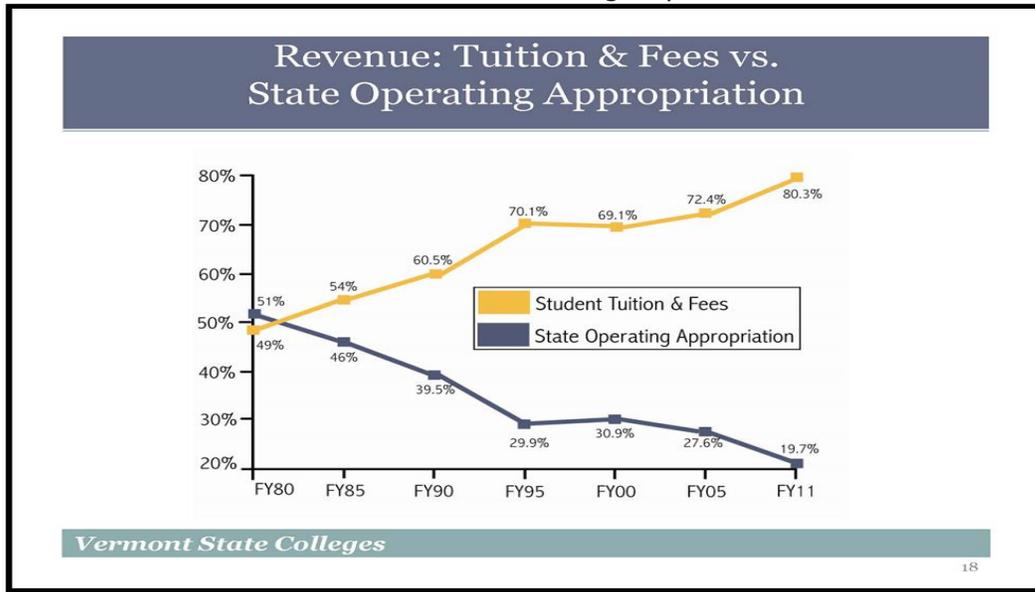


NOTES: 1. Net tuition revenue is calculated by taking the gross amount of tuition and fees, less state and institutional financial aid, tuition waivers or discounts, and medical student tuition and fees. Net tuition revenue used for capital debt service is included in the net tuition revenue figures above.
2. Adjustment factors to arrive at constant dollar figures include Cost of Living Index (COLI), Enrollment Mix Index (EMI), and Higher Education Cost Adjustment (HECA). The Cost of Living Index (COLI) is not a measure of inflation over time.

SOURCE: State Higher Education Executive Officers

- This means that Vermont students pay the highest tuition in the country (College Board 2017 data) and they graduate with more student loan debt (Institute for College Access & Success).
- Due to the lack of state support our students have no affordable option. In fact, 40% of our students do not go on to any post secondary education. This is true despite the fact that we have one of the highest high graduation rates in the country (State of Vermont Agency of Education 2017).
- This lack of state support was not always the case. There has been a consistent disinvestment in public higher education in Vermont since 1980. This chart illustrates

the disinvestment in the Vermont State College System:



Free Tuition for All Vermonters Attending Public Colleges and Universities:

- We need to create an affordable and sustainable option for Vermonters.
- Free tuition would mean that our students could graduate debt free, so they can afford to live and work in Vermont after graduation. They would not have to postpone buying homes, starting businesses or having families. With the second oldest population in the country, we need to attract and keep young Vermonters.
- Free tuition would enable students from low income families to consider college and it would encourage adults who never went on to college to do so.

What We are Asking For:

- First dollar free tuition for all Vermonters to attend all public colleges and universities (Castleton University, Community College of Vermont, Northern Vermont University, Vermont Technical College, and the University of Vermont).
- You to support S. 38. This bill asks that the money to support free tuition comes from taxing the wealthiest Vermonters at a rate that is comparable to what the rest of us pay. This seems fair since under the Trump tax cuts, the richest one percent of Vermont residents will receive 45.1 percent of the tax cuts within the state in 2018. These households are projected to have an income of at least \$505,400 next year and they will be getting an average tax cut of \$45,250 in 2018, which would increase their income by an average of 3.8 percent (Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy).
- Even if you can't commit to free tuition this year, we ask that you commit to phasing in a comprehensive free tuition program over a few years.
- Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter:
https://www.facebook.com/freetuitionforVT/?modal=admin_todo_tour

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