

Amber Housley

American Government- Quarter 2 Benchmark

KEY:

+ (Positive Impact)

--- (Negative Impact)

LEGISLATIVE

Higher Education Opportunity Act+

"Higher Education." *ED*. U.S. Department of Education. 25 Jun. 2010. Web. 16 Jan. 2011.
<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/highered/leg/hea08/index.html>

"Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act of 1965." *FinAid*. 2011. Web. 16 Jan. 2011.
<http://www.finaid.org/educators/reauthorization.phtml>

The Higher Education Opportunity Act is a continuation of the same act that was implemented in 1965. Outlined in the 1965 act is the authorization of federal student assistance programs. The most recent 2008 version of the act updates the procedures that post-secondary institutions must follow. One of the requirements is that institutions must post a net price calculator on their websites so that students are given an estimate of possible costs that are specific to their individual needs. This new requirement will help students better prepare for the financial aspect of their college attendance. The net price calculator is easily accessible, and helps students prepare and decide on their plans for financial assistance. As someone who will attend college in the upcoming year, this law positively impacts my family and I. The research that I have to do and the phone calls that I have to make relating to financial inquiries are limited.

Pennsylvania Child Support---

"Pennsylvania child support, custody, visitation, and wage garnishment rules." *ChildSupport*. Web. 16 Jan. 2011.
http://www.child-support-collections.com/support_laws/pennsylvania-child-support-law.html

Pennsylvania child support laws serve to ensure that a child's financial needs are met.

Typically the “non-custodial” parent pays the custodial parent. The current child support laws in Pennsylvania calculate the amount of money that is due based on income. Income serves as an indication of how much a parent is able to pay toward child support. Also mentioned in the laws is that when a child turns eighteen years old, they are no longer eligible to receive child support. My parents are divorced and my mother has sole custody of me. This negatively impacts me because my “non-custodial parent” (father) is no longer obligated to contribute financially to my needs when I turn eighteen although my mother might continue. I have one less source of assistance when I am eighteen because one of my parents is no longer obligated to assist me.

Affordable Care Act+

"A New Day for Health Care in America." *HealthCare*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Web. 16 Jan. 2011.

<http://www.healthcare.gov/law/introduction/index.html>

The Affordable Care Act was enacted March 2010. Its purpose is to protect citizens from the insurance industry, provide them new rights, benefits and coverage. Americans are also granted access to routine check-ups, screenings and other preventative methods without extreme costs. The reformation applies to new health plans and the benefits are becoming more prevalent. This positively impacts me with regards to the extended health coverage guarantee. I can receive health care at an affordable cost (on my mother’s behalf). Ultimately, this act foreshadows a new future for health care in America, which is promising to American citizens.

Philadelphia Curfew Ordinance---

"Examples of Juvenile Curfew Laws and Penalty." *FindLaw*. Thomson Reuters (2011). Web. 16 Jan. 2011.

<http://public.findlaw.com/civil-rights/curfew-laws/juvenile-curfew-laws-examples.html>

Philadelphia is one of a few cities that have a set curfew for minors. The curfew changes throughout the year to suit the time children are in school and when they are not. There are punishments for violation of city curfew such as community service or fines. Perhaps officers take into account the holidays that minors do not spend with their parents and stay out past “city curfew”. However, the Philadelphia curfew ordinance does not indicate that holidays are an exception. I am a seventeen year-old who, under this ordinance, is expected to be home 10:30 p.m.-6:00 a.m. on weekdays year-round and Midnight to 6:00 a.m. on weekends year-round. This negatively impacts me because I might be punished for being caught away from home outside of the accepted hours for reasons other than those considered reasonable under the ordinance. The

Philadelphia Curfew Ordinance assumes that minors ages 13-17 should be treated in the same manner.

BUREAUCRATIC

FAFSA +

"Federal Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) Overview." *studentaid*. Rezolve Group (2011). Web. 16 Jan. 2011.

<http://www.studentaid.com/Paying/How-Aid-Works/FAFSA>

The free application for federal student aid is used for consideration of student aid from multiple sources. Filling out this application grants students federal, state and school aid. Families complete forms relating to income sources, which serve to estimate the monetary amount of scholarships, loans, and grants that a student is eligible to receive. This process is beneficial to me because it provides money that I would not otherwise have to attend college. The process is tedious, but reasonable because it thoroughly examines each family to ensure that the proper amount of money is awarded to each student. FAFSA guarantees financial assistance to almost everyone who wishes to attend college. I trust that the thorough examination of my household income will properly determine the money that I receive in loans, grants, and scholarships.

Getting a Driver's License---

"Drivers License & ID." *DMV*. OnlineGURU (1999-2011). Web. 16 Jan. 2011.

<http://www.dmv.org/drivers-license.php>

The steps and requirements for obtaining a license vary for different age groups. Teens (under eighteen) must apply for a permit, take driver's training and then apply for a driver's license. Those who are under the age of eighteen must have fifty hours of training (or hold a permit for six months with training during that time) and then apply for a juniors license. In order to obtain a regular license before turning eighteen, a driver's education course must be taken. The process may be described as tedious. There are multiple steps that people who are eighteen years of age must follow, but even more for those who are younger. The process takes extra precautions for drivers under eighteen (like myself) regardless of the experience they might have. There is an overall assumption that everyone over eighteen is better able to learn safe driving skills in a shorter time, which is reflected in the shortened steps they must follow.

Getting a Passport---

"Passport." *Travel.State.Gov*. U.S. Department of State. Web. 16 Jan. 2011.

<http://travel.state.gov/passport/>

There are six circumstances that require in person application. Special requirements for certain age groups also exist. Minor applicants, ages 16 and 17, must appear in person during application, have a parent's photo ID (unless the minor can provide it), and have parental consent. There is risk of delay and application denial for mistakes in the application. This process is thorough and demands accuracy. Some of the required steps are extreme in that they require too much. For instance, the photo identification that is presented must be of a specific size and can't be more than six months old. This process might be attempted on multiple occasions because flaws occur causing one to begin the process over. My mother went to a few sources to get a passport for her self, my brother and I. The process of obtaining a passport is inconvenient.

CHIP +

"What is CHIP?" *InsureKidsNow*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Web. 16 Jan. 2011.

<http://www.insurekidsnow.gov/chip/index.html>

The Children's Health Insurance Program covers children, U.S. citizens and immigrants, up to the age of nineteen. The cost of health insurance is free or affordable under this program. Generally, families of four with an income of approximately \$44, 100 yearly can receive coverage. There are families that exceed the general income and still receive coverage. This program is beneficial and fair because each state has power to organize the plan for its residents. The state that I reside will cater to individual family needs and decide different standards for qualifications. Some families that exceed certain limitations can receive coverage. Benefits, application, and renewal might also vary for families in the same state. This program ensures satisfaction for the residents of different states by allowing individual state modification.

JUDICIAL

Brown v. Board of Education +

"Brown v. Board of Education-Case Brief Summary." *Lawnix*. Web. 16 Jan. 2011.

<http://www.lawnix.com/cases/brown-board-education.html>

The Brown v. Board of Education case aimed to end segregation in public schools. The court ordered the “separate but equal” clause, mentioned in the Plessy versus Ferguson case, unconstitutional with regards to the fourteenth amendment, which addresses equal protection. As one of countless students who attend a public school, this court case impacts my access to education. The case made it possible for students to attend schools regardless of their race. I am able to attend a school that unites different cultures and races. A diverse learning environment has been proven effective since the outcome of this case. Students in America no longer have the limited education that segregated school entailed.

New Jersey v. T.L.O. (1985)---

Jacobs, Tom. "10 Supreme Court Cases Every Teen Should Know." *NYTIMES*. 15 Sep. 2008. Web. 16 Jan. 2011.

http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/featured_articles/20080915monday.html

A student named Terry at a New Jersey high school was caught smoking in the school's bathroom by a teacher. The principal questioned Terry and searched her purse finding marijuana, cigarettes, and rolling papers. Terry confessed to selling drugs and later claimed the search of her purse violated her protection of “unreasonable search and seizures” mentioned in the Fourth Amendment. The Court ruled in the schools favor, thus enabling schools to search student's belongings. School authority might search my things if foul activity is suspected. If one source that might prove the foul activity that is suspected does not show that I am guilty, will the search continue? This is a continuous violation of privacy based on assumption and negatively impacts me.

Safford Unified School District v. Redding+

“Safford Unified School District v. Redding.” *The Oyez Project* 557 U.S. (2009). Web. 16 Jan. 2011.

http://www.oyez.org/cases/2000-2009/2008/2008_08_479

An eighth grade student at Stafford Middle School named Savanna Redding was strip-searched by school officials. The motive for the search was another student insisted that Savanna was carrying ibuprofen. This was a violation of the school's policy. The conclusion labeled the search unjustified and unreasonable with regards to the circumstances. This incident positively impacts me because it protects me from being strip-searched on a suspected school violation. The ruling objects the assumption that any measure is taken in response to a school violation. I am protected from the humiliation that strip-searches entail, especially one that is based on false

suspicion suspicion caused by another student.

Tinker v. Des Moines Independent School District (1969)---

Jacobs, Tom. "10 Supreme Court Cases Every Teen Should Know." *NYTIMES*. 15 Sep. 2008. Web. 16 Jan. 2011.

http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/featured_articles/20080915monday.html

Three students wore black armbands to a school in Des Moines, Iowa. The bands served to protest the war in Vietnam. Apparently the school did not accept the bands and told the students to remove them. The students, who refused to remove the bands, were suspended. Students and parents sued the school district on the basis of freedom of speech. Although the court ruled in favor of the students, they were not granted unlimited self-expression. The court stated that forms of expression that do not disrupt the learning environment are acceptable. The ruling is nonspecific and allows school authority to limit the students' freedom of expression. There are ways for teachers to claim interruption based on one's expression even if it is unreasonable. The ruling of this case is not firm and allots space for a similar incident to reoccur. The court made a ruling that can be manipulated if desired.