

AS THE **MIDDLE CLASS** GOES, SO GOES AMERICA.

Without an expanding, prosperous and thriving middle class, we simply wouldn't be the economic superpower we are today — not even close.



at a typical public university, the cost of tuition and fees is \$5,500 or about 13 percent of median family income.

In the 1960s, that figure

was less than five percent.

For many Americans, a college education opens doors to the middle class. Unfortunately, the rising cost of a college education is threatening to close some of these doors. Simply put, the middle class is at risk of being priced out of higher education.

Historically, the public sector helped to keep tuition low and aspirations high. As far back as the G.I. Bill, this public investment spurred an educated and innovative work force and fueled the economy.

But state support of higher education has waned in recent years. Today

9th

AMERICA RANKS
9TH WORLDWIDE
IN COLLEGE
ENROLLMENT RATES.



If states do not renew and maintain their commitment to funding higher education, the trend of higher tuitions will continue. At one major public university, state funding has dropped from 85 percent of the budget to a mere 20 percent since the 1970s.

America's colleges and universities prepare the people who solve the problems and teach the people who change the world. They help create a strong middle class, and that means a strong America.

SOLUTIONSFOROURFUTURE.org

For all the different ways you can help, visit solutionsforourfuture.org.