Members of Congress, great guests, related citizens: As we gather these days, our nation is still at war, our economy is in a downturn, and the educated world faces unmatched dangers. However the State of our Union has never been stronger.

We gather this day to know that for the first time in nine years that there are definitely not any Americans fighting in the country of Iraq. As I have announced on January 24th, 2012, that the troops might not be home for more than a year, but we will most likely see most troops back by the end of 2013. The majority of al Qaeda’s leading lieutenants have been overpowered. We have just learned that some troops in Afghanistan have also begun to come home, too. There are also still more than 90,000 troops there unfortunately we can’t help that because they are still fighting and most likely not going to back down soon. If we follow what our troops have done we can give ourselves freedom more quickly.

The U.S. is still in tough economic times. The U.S. has currently $14.6 trillion in debt right now, but is negotiating on ways to lose $1.2 trillion of it in the next decade. As far as jobs go the U.S. has lost 11.2 million jobs since the start of the economic plunge in Dec. 2007. I have created 3,577,000 jobs since the beginning of the economic drop and have gained 4,052,000 in private-sector jobs. The SeatonCorp company in Chicago, IL has opened up the most jobs, 14,680, according to Inc.com! Added 115,000 jobs in April and the unemployment rate went from 8.2-8.1 in March. As for manufacturing, Toyota has produced the most cars in the world! The U.S. has traded, imported, or exported to countries around the world, from Australia to Zimbabwe and anywhere else you can think of (or most of them at least.)

I stand here right now because I want all the colleges to find a way to stop tuition from going up or risk losing national aid money. My plan is to shift away aid from those colleges that will not keep the tuition down, and use the aid to support the institutions that “do their fair share” to keep tuition affordable prices. Over a lifetime, an 18 year old who doesn’t finish high school, earns about $260,000 less than another student with a high school diploma. They put in about $60,000 less in a lifetime federal and state revenue taxes. If graduating students, who dropped out of school, stayed in school, our nation’s economy would have gained an additional $319 billion in profit over their lifetimes.

While we are still fighting an economic and educational battle here at home and a military battle overseas, I am confident that our nation will find a way to overcome our financial hardships and most importantly bring all our troops home to their families and provide affordable higher education for the generation that will become our future leaders!