WORK STUDY 03/29/2017 D. ZARFOS

 The Trump Administration has proposed a new “America First” budget blueprint that would reduce the federal work-study program. Destrey Zarfos has the story.

MP3 RUNS 1:30 O/C: STD.

DESTREY ZARFOS: PRESIDENT TRUMP’S PROPOSED BUDGET PLAN TO CUT FUNDS TO THE WORK-STUDY PROGRAM COULD HAVE A BIG IMPACT ON U-W-RIVER FALLS. THERE ARE CURRENTLY 423 STUDENTS IN THE PROGRAM THAT WOULD BE LEFT WITHOUT VITAL FUNDING. DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL AID ROBERT BODE (BO-dee) AND HIS STAFF DO THEY BEST THEY CAN WITH WHAT THEY’RE GIVEN TO HELP WORK-STUDY STUDENTS.

ROBERT BODE: “IT’S ACUALLY FUNDS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. WE GET ABOUT $450,000 EVERY YEAR. IN ORDER TO PAY STUDENTS WE HAVE TO MATCH THAT. THE TOTAL PAYMENT TO AN INDIVIDUAL STUDENT FOR A BI-WEEKLY WAGE WOULD BE 75 PERCENT FEDERAL FUNDS AND 25 PERCENT UNIVERSITY FUNDS.”

DESTREY ZARFOS: WITH POTENTIAL BUDGET CUTS TO THE WORK-STUDY PROGRAM, STUDENTS WOULD BE FACED WITH FEWER OPTIONS, SUCH AS ADDITIONAL LOANS, AND ADJUSTMENTS TO THE PROGRAM WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE.

ROBERT BODE: “WE COULD KEEP THE SAME NUMBER OF STUDENTS AND LOWER THE AMOUNT OF MONEY THAT WE ALLOW THEM TO EARN, OR WE COULD REDUCE THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO GET WORK-STUDY, SO IT WOULD BE A TOUGH CHOICE.”

DESTREY ZARFOS: LAURA LUSARDI (lu-SAHR-dee) IS A SENIOR AT UWRF, HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN THE WORK-STUDY PROGRAM FOR FOUR YEARS AND HAS RELIED ON HEAVILY ON THAT INCOME. SHOULD THE PROPOSED BUDGET BE ACCEPTED, LUSARDI IS WORRIED FOR THE FUTURE.

LAURA LUSARDI: “I AM TERRIFED TO SEE WHAT’S GOING TO HAPPEN IF CERTAIN THINGS BECOME PASSED, ITS JUST MAKING THIS GAP BIGGER AND BIGGER BETWEEN THOSE WHO CAN AFFORD IT AND THOSE WHO CANT.

DESTREY ZARFOS: CURRENTLY, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SPENDS ABOUT ONE BILLION DOLLARS PER YEAR ON THE WORK-STUDY PROGRAM. FOR FALCON NEWS SERVICE, I’M DESTREY ZARFOS.

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