The responsibility of the cost of higher education has always been a constant debate lately. As some believe that students themselves have to pay for their education, proponents of free education opined that financial burden should not obstruct one’s way in pursuing his or her studies. Despite the complexities, it may seem that free higher education may not turn out to be as beneficial as we expected.

One evident aftermath of free higher education is that taxes will soar and property owners will be the victim even when they do not have children studying in colleges (Norton, 2018). According to Norton (2018), property tax is the source of public education, and taxpayers will pay accordingly while students continue to enjoy free education. Noack (2015) further provides evidence of this unwanted situation, as he stated that Denmark, a country which government carries the burden of free education tops the list of the countries with the highest tax rates. The situation is also worsened when students who receive free education take it for granted. Students who find themselves incompetent in certain classes may withdraw from them and eventually gained nothing, thereby increasing drop out rate (Norton, 2018).

Apart from burdening taxpayers, it is possible that taxpayers carry the burden for nothing.

While some argues that students who receive support from taxpayers will repay them through public service professions, concerns regarding international students not contributing to the country they are educated in are raised (Minsky, 2016). Minsky (2016) points out that certain universities do not impose quota restrictions on student in their classes, causing international students to outnumber local students. Also, Wakefield (2015) suggests another scenario where graduates work abroad in a tax free country, causing the outflow of talented individuals. This could significantly hurt the country as graduates who reap the benefits of free education are expected to be taxpayers for the country and support incoming university students.

In conclusion, it is evident that the cons outweigh the pros once free education is provided. Students should be responsible for their own education by seeking scholarships or loans, and be constantly aware that no one is obliged to pay on their behalf.