

AMERICAN COUNCIL ON EDUCATION



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

March 20, 2010

U.S House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

I write on behalf of the higher education associations listed below—representing two- and four-year public and private colleges and universities, and 18 million students—to express support for the education provisions contained in H.R. 4872, the pending reconciliation measure. These education provisions make critical investments in America’s students and economic future.

Passage of these provisions will help provide students with the resources they need to pursue postsecondary education. Without the funds made available by this legislation, 8 million low- and middle-income students who rely on Pell Grants could see their grants cut to maximum award levels last seen in the late 1980s. Others could see their grants disappear entirely. It is customary in periods of economic downturn for more students to turn to postsecondary education to acquire the skills they need to succeed in a competitive job market, and this trend is more pronounced now than at any other time in history. While this action by individuals ultimately contributes to economic recovery, it temporarily puts severe pressure on the Pell Grant Program.

We are pleased the bill also invests \$2.6 billion in Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges and Universities to provide students at these institutions with the support they need to pursue and complete postsecondary education. Another important feature of the bill is the \$2 billion that is made available to fund the Community College and Career Training Grant Program. Authorized in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, this program will provide competitive grants to local colleges to assist dislocated or unemployed workers or workers needing additional career training and education. These investments in students, workers and institutions will allow us to build our economy on the strength of a highly-skilled workforce. Finally, we appreciate the funding that is made available to assist schools with their conversion to direct lending under challenging time constraints.

In his first address to Congress, the president laid out an ambitious goal of leading the world in postsecondary attainment by 2020. Our institutions have embraced this goal and are strongly committed to facilitating success for every student who enters postsecondary education. The education provisions in this bill are critical investments that will help to advance this objective, and we ask you to support them.

Sincerely,



Molly Corbett Broad  
President

MCB/ldw

On behalf of:

American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers  
American Association of Community Colleges  
American Association of State Colleges and Universities  
American Association of University Professors  
American Council on Education  
American Dental Education Association  
American Indian Higher Education Consortium  
Association of American Colleges & Universities  
Association of American Universities  
Association of Community College Trustees  
Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges  
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities  
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities  
Association of Research Libraries  
Council for Opportunity in Education  
Council of Graduate Schools  
Council of Independent Colleges  
EDUCAUSE  
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities  
NASPA – Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education  
National Association for College Admission Counseling  
National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education  
National Association of College and University Business Officers  
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities  
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators  
National Direct Student Loan Coalition  
The College Board  
UNCF

Budget Reconciliation Act of 2010

March 20, 2010

Page 3

United States Public Interest Research Group

United States Student Association

Women's College Coalition