

AMERICAN COUNCIL ON EDUCATION



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

May 15, 2009

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education and Related Agencies
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education and Related Agencies
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Fiscal Year 2010 Appropriations for Higher Education Programs

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Cochran:

On behalf of the higher education associations listed below, I write to urge your continued support for the many important federal programs contained in the Higher Education Act (HEA). Funding for these programs is vital to our effort to increase access to higher education for students, revitalize our economy, and strengthen American global competitiveness.

As President Obama has said, “we need to put a college education within reach of every American. That’s the best investment we can make in our future.” That is why we greatly appreciate the recent effort by Congress to dramatically increase funding for the Pell Grant program. By passing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Congress has provided the single largest increase in the Pell maximum award in the program’s history. We thank you for this historic investment in the Pell program, which serves as the cornerstone of our federal need-based student aid efforts. You may have already seen the letter submitted by the Student Aid Alliance detailing specific FY 2010 funding requests for other need-based student aid programs, and we urge your support for those requests.

In putting together the FY 2010 appropriations bill for Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, we encourage you also to consider providing increased funding for other valuable higher education programs within the subcommittee’s jurisdiction. Several of these programs work in conjunction with the Pell Grant program to expand opportunities for students to participate in postsecondary education, while other programs serve a variety of specified national purposes. Through the reauthorization of HEA last fall, Congress has strengthened these programs, renewed its commitment to increasing access to higher education, and broadened the capacity of the higher education system to meet present and future challenges. We hope that with this renewed commitment will come the additional resources needed to help these programs meet their worthy goals. Other higher education associations will

be contacting you regarding funding for these programs, and we appreciate your careful consideration of their requests.

The current economic climate presents unprecedented challenges to the development of the fiscal year 2010 appropriations bills. However, we believe that increasing the federal investment in higher education is critical to our efforts to strengthen America's human capital and lay the foundation for future economic growth.

We thank you for your consideration of our request and look forward to working with you as the fiscal year 2010 appropriations process continues.

Sincerely,



Molly Corbett Broad
President

MCB/lw

cc: Members of the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies

On behalf of:

American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers
American Association of State Colleges and Universities
American Council on Education
Association of American Universities
Association of Community College Trustees
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Council of Graduate Schools
EDUCAUSE
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
UNCF