

November 8, 2011

The Honorable Patty Murray
U.S. Senate
448 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Murray:

On behalf of the Association of Community College Trustees, I thank you for supporting our nation's veterans through the introduction of the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011. This bill helps repay our men and women in uniform by providing our veterans with the assistance to find employment following their years of service.

As you know, our nation's community colleges serve a large share of returning U.S. service members, helping them obtain the skills, degrees and certifications necessary for long-term employment. The Montgomery GI Bill has played an essential role in allowing millions of veterans to obtain schooling and job training. The VOW to Hire Heroes Act expands upon that commitment to our service members by allowing veterans of past years to obtain up to an additional year of Montgomery GI Bill benefits.

Offering additional training opportunities to our veterans in high-demand fields will assist the current 1 million unemployed veterans, and help close our nation's skills gap. By investing in our veterans we can help ensure that every industry has the high skilled workers necessary to compete in a 21st century economy.

Thank you again for introducing the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011. The Association of Community College Trustees supports your efforts and urges passage of this legislation in the House and Senate.

Sincerely,



J. Noah Brown
ACCT President and CEO