



American Council on Education  
Office of the President

June 13, 2007

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the American Council on Education and the undersigned higher education associations, we encourage your support of language in the House Labor-HHS appropriations bill restricting the Department of Education's ability to unilaterally regulate accreditation in FY 2008.

As you know, the higher education community has been concerned about the direction the Department has been pursuing with respect to accreditation since the release of the Spellings Commission report in September 2006. This concern increased throughout the recently concluded negotiated rulemaking panel on accreditation, which notably failed to reach consensus on the Department's controversial proposals in this area. While colleges and universities wholeheartedly embrace the value of institution-driven accountability, we believe the Department's rigid, top-down, one-size-fits-all approach to accreditation would seriously undermine the historic and highly successful relationship between higher education and the federal government.

The limitation language in the FY 2008 Labor-HHS appropriations bill is sensitive to both process and policy on accreditation. We commend its continued inclusion in the FY 2008 Labor-HHS appropriations bill this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Ward', is written in a cursive style.

David Ward  
President

DW/mmm

On Behalf Of:

ACPA - College Student Educators International  
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
American Association of Community Colleges  
American Association of State Colleges and Universities  
American Association of University Professors  
American Council on Education  
American Dental Association  
American Dental Education Association

Re: House Accreditation Letter

June 13, 2007

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American Indian Higher Education Consortium  
Association for Biblical Higher Education  
Association of American Colleges and Universities  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of American Universities  
Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities  
Association of Community College Trustees  
Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges  
Association of Independent Colleges of Art & Design  
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities  
Association of Presbyterian Colleges and Universities  
Association of Research Libraries  
Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors  
Association of Theological Schools  
College Board  
Council for Advancement and Support of Education  
Council for Higher Education Accreditation  
Council for Opportunity in Education  
Council of Graduate Schools  
Council of Independent Colleges  
EDUCAUSE  
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities  
Lutheran Educational Conference of North America  
National Association of College and University Business Officers  
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities  
National Association of Schools, Colleges, and Universities of The United Methodist Church  
National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges  
National Collegiate Athletic Association  
University Continuing Education Association  
Women's College Coalition