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July 10, 2007

Honorable George Miller
Chairman
Committee on Education and Labor
2181 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Miller:

We write as CEOs of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACCC) and the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) to express our support for H.R. 2669, the "College Cost Reduction Act of 2007." AACCC represents the nation's community college presidents and ACCT their trustees.

H.R. 2669 will have major benefits for community colleges and their students. Most significantly, it greatly enhances the Pell Grant program, which is an essential access and success vehicle for our students. More than two million community college students receive Pell Grants each year. While we are pleased that the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education, and Related Agencies has substantially increased the FY 2008 Pell Grant maximum, the additional funding contained in H.R. 2669 will further help make community college a reality for needy students.

The legislation has many other positive features, including:

- Modifying the Academic Competitiveness Grants (ACG) program to include part-time and certificate students, as well permanent legal residents;
- Eliminating the Pell Grant tuition sensitivity provision that has prevented students attending the least expensive community colleges from qualifying for the maximum grant;
- Increasing Income Protection Allowances (IPA), thereby reducing the "work penalty" for the majority of students who need to work to defray college expenses (77% of all full-time community college students also work);
- Ensuring that the year-round Pell Grant will be available to part-time students and those enrolled in certificate programs of one year or longer;

- Reducing the cost of subsidized Stafford loans, which are being relied upon increasingly by our students, and facilitating repayment for selected borrowers;
- Providing funding Asian and Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions and Predominantly Black Institutions, many of which will be community colleges worthy of federal support (however, we oppose the latter program's subsidization of the profits of school owners by providing funds to for-profit institutions); and,
- Enhancing funding for TRIO, Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs), and other critical programs.

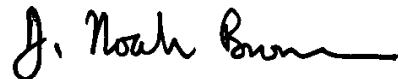
As the legislation advances, we hope to see changes to the bill in the areas of institutional reporting and college costs. With average tuitions of \$2,272, community colleges have demonstrated a sustained commitment to maintaining college affordability; however, federal involvement in this area can be problematic.

Thank you for your consideration of these views. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



George R. Boggs
AACC CEO and President



J. Noah Brown
ACCT CEO