



American Council on Education
Office of the President

July 18, 2007

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the higher education associations listed below, I write to express support for S. 1762, the Higher Education Access Act of 2007. Senators Kennedy and Enzi deserve enormous credit for their efforts to make college more affordable for the millions of American students who have worked hard to prepare for college, but whose families lack the resources to send them.

S. 1762 will provide an unprecedented \$17 billion boost in federal assistance for needy students by reducing subsidies in the federal student loan program. This increase in mandatory funding, combined with the discretionary funds allocated to the Pell Grant program in the FY 2008 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education appropriation bill, would make possible the largest Pell Grant maximum in history. We deeply appreciate this bold step toward expanding the federal government's commitment to educational opportunity for all who are qualified to pursue a college education. We also trust that it will result in a significant expansion of funding for the Pell Grant program that will be delivered in the most efficient way to the neediest of Pell Grant recipients.

We support the passage of S. 1762, and urge all members of the Senate to vote in favor of increased access to college for low- and middle-income students.

Sincerely,

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

David Ward
President

DW/mmn

On behalf of:

American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Community Colleges
American Association of State Colleges and Universities
American Association of University Professors

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Association of American Colleges and Universities

Association of American Universities

Association of Community College Trustees

Association of Governing Boards

Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities

Association of Research Libraries

ACPA – College Student Educators International

American Council on Education

American Dental Education Association

Council of Graduate Schools

Council of Independent Colleges

EDUCAUSE

Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities

National Association of College Admissions Counselors

National Association of College and University Business Officers

National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities

National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges

National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)

The College Board

Thurgood Marshall College Fund

United Negro College Fund (UNCF)

Women's College Coalition