



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES  
ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEES



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Honorable Edward M. Kennedy  
Chairman  
Committee on Health, Education Labor and Pensions  
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Dear Chairman Kennedy:

We write as CEOs of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) and the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) to express our support for S. 1762, the “Higher Education Access Act of 2007.” AACC represents the nation’s community college presidents and ACCT their trustees.

S. 1762 will have an extremely positive benefit for community college students. Most significantly, it will greatly enhance funding for individuals receiving Pell Grants. Each year, over two million community college students receive Pell Grants, and these grants frequently make the difference as to whether an individual is able to pursue their dream of a postsecondary education. Using excess loan subsidies to increase the benefits received by Pell Grant recipients is forward-looking public policy. Combined with potential large increases in the Pell Grants appropriation for FY 2008, 2007 could be a banner year for current and aspiring college students. We also applaud the legislation’s elimination of the outdated Pell Grants “tuition sensitivity” provision.

As S. 1762 advances through the legislative process, we hope to work with you to ensure that funds are awarded to all eligible and deserving Pell Grant recipients, including those attending low-cost institutions, as well as those who have not applied by July 1 of the award year. This could be achieved efficiently by simply adding grant funds directly to the Pell Grants program.

Sincerely,

George R. Boggs  
AACC CEO and President

J. Noah Brown  
ACCT CEO

