



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEES



November 14, 2007

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

Dear Chairman Miller:

We write on behalf of the presidents and trustees of the nation's community colleges concerning H.R. 4137, the "College Opportunity and Affordability Act of 2007." As you know, our colleges represent the largest sector of higher education and enroll 46% of the nation's undergraduate college students.

Our organizations support H.R. 4137. The legislation provides many key improvements to the programs authorized by the Higher Education Act (HEA) and creates a number of new programs that will greatly benefit our students and institutions. From our perspective, some of the bill's strongest features include:

- Increasing the authorized Pell Grant maximum to \$9,000, and ensuring that year-round Pell Grants will be provided to certificate and part-time students;
- Making Academic Competitiveness Grants available to part-time and certificate students as well as permanent resident aliens;
- Rejecting the "single definition" of institution of higher education, and thereby ensuring that the HEA continues to reflect fundamental differences between non-profit and for-profit institutions;
- Providing new assistance for a variety of critical activities undertaken by community colleges, including teacher training, remedial education, rural development, nursing education, and other activities;
- Establishing new targeted assistance for Predominantly Black Institutions and other Minority-Serving Institutions;
- Promoting articulation agreements between public institutions within a state.

However, our support for this legislation is mitigated by serious concerns over the bill's battery of new reporting requirements. We do not believe that many of these requirements would provide benefits commensurate with the costs of implementing them. We particularly object to the legislation's new provisions in the area of college costs. Our colleges do not oppose a reasonable framework designed to inform students and the public about tuitions levels and the availability of student financial aid, but the provisions in H.R. 4137 are deeply flawed and need

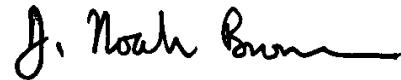
to be overhauled. It is ironic that at a time when Congress is deeply concerned about college costs, their own policies would add substantially to institutional expenditures.

Thank you for crafting this legislation. We look forward to working with you to ensure its enactment.

Sincerely,



George R. Boggs
AACC CEO and President



J. Noah Brown
ACCT CEO