



ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEES

February 26, 2007

House of Representatives
Washington, DC 200515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the Association of Community College Trustees and the 6,500 publicly elected and appointed trustees who govern the nation's 1,200 community, technical and junior colleges, I write to urge your support for H.R. 990, the Pell Grant Equity Act of 2007, which eliminates the "tuition sensitivity" provision in the Higher Education Act, section 401 (b)(3). H.R. 990 is slated for consideration tomorrow.

H.R. 990 is critical because "tuition sensitivity" discriminates against the neediest community college students by reducing their Pell Grant award based on the students' attendance at a lower-cost college. "Tuition sensitivity" sends the wrong message to states and colleges that are working hard to keep tuition and fees low for the broadest segment of the student population. In a time of spiraling higher education costs, the federal government should be providing incentives to colleges and states to keep educational costs low.

According to the California Community College Chancellor's office, over 260,000 California community college students are affected by "tuition sensitivity". Additionally, there are serious concerns that community college students in other states will be subject to the provision as the Pell Grant maximum grows. It is time to eliminate this provision that has long out-lived its usefulness.

We again urge you to support passage of this bill. Please contact me or my colleague, ACCT Director of Public Policy, Jee Hang Lee, if you have any questions. Jee Hang and I can be reached at 202.775.4667 or by emailing us at: nbrown@acct.org or jhlee@acct.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Noah Brown". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

J. Noah Brown
President and CEO