



American Council on Education
Office of the President

April 13, 2007

The Honorable George Miller
Chairman
Education & Labor Committee
U.S House of Representatives
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Howard “Buck” McKeon
Ranking Member
Education & Labor Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Ruben Hinojosa
Chairman
Subcommittee on Higher Education
Lifelong Learning & Competitiveness
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Ric Keller
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Higher Education
Lifelong Learning & Competitiveness
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington DC 20510

Dear Chairman Miller, Ranking Member McKeon, Chairman Hinojosa and Ranking Member Keller:

On behalf of the undersigned 15 higher education associations, I write to thank you for your March 8 invitation to submit recommendations for the upcoming Higher Education Act reauthorization and to present our recommendations to the committee in the pages that follow.

The attached recommendations address the areas of access to higher education, improving the financial aid delivery system, enhancing college preparation, bolstering programs that provide need-based student aid and improving loan counseling and management. Additionally, we have included proposals for teacher training, international studies and graduate education – as well as important suggestions for improvements to the AC/SMART grant programs, accreditation and the negotiated rulemaking process.

In recognition of the committee’s scheduling and budget constraints, we are presenting a comprehensive but focused list of priorities – with a handful of timely new ideas for the committee’s consideration. Some of these recommendations will be familiar to the House from ongoing reauthorization conversations. Others have gained particular currency in the Senate. Still others arise from policy development and real world experience in the higher education community itself. Regardless of origin, we commend each of these recommendations to your thoughtful attention.

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Again, we thank you for the opportunity to present these proposals, and we look forward to working with you to pass a strengthened Higher Education Act reauthorization this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Ward", with a colorful, multi-colored shadow or outline effect.

David Ward
President

DW/mmm

Enclosure

On behalf of:

American Association of Community Colleges
American Association of State Colleges and Universities
American Council on Education
American Indian Higher Education Consortium
Association of American Universities
Association of Community College Trustees
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities
Council for Higher Education Accreditation
Council of Graduate Schools
EDUCAUSE
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities
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