



American Council on Education
Office of the President

September 6, 2007

Re: H.R. 2669, The College Cost Reduction and Access Act

Dear Senator:

I write on behalf of the higher education associations listed below, representing the nation's 4,300 two- and four-year public and private colleges and research universities, to express our strong support for the conference report on H.R. 2669, the College Cost Reduction and Access Act. The bill will dramatically enhance the federal government's long-term goal of ensuring access to college for all students with the ability and desire to attend higher education.

We are especially grateful that the savings achieved in this bill will be redirected substantially to augment the appropriated Pell Grant maximum over the next five years. For several years, Congress and the President have pledged to increase the Pell Grant maximum award to \$5,100. Using funds derived from reducing federal student loan subsidies, the conference report on H.R. 2669 achieves that goal by delivering a \$5,400 maximum grant to low- and middle-income students in the 2012-13 academic award year. This substantial infusion of funds into the Pell Grant program encompasses the largest increase in the history of the program. In short, the Congress will have made an historic contribution toward increasing college access for low-income students.

In addition to boosting Pell Grants, the legislation makes other major changes to the Federal Student Aid programs. We appreciate the Committee's expressed willingness to work with us to ensure that these modifications do not have unintended consequences for students or institutions.

We urge all members of the Senate to vote in favor of this important higher education legislation.

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 Community Colleges
American Council on Education

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American Indian Higher Education Consortium

American Association of State Colleges and Universities

Association of American Universities

Association of Community College Trustees

Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities

Coalition of Urban Serving Universities

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