

American Council on Education



Office of the President

October 1, 2008

U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

We are writing to urge your support of H.R. 1424, the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, legislation which will be voted on by the Senate later this evening. During the past year, the higher education community has monitored, with increasing concern, developments in the nation's financial and credit markets. Today's news has further highlighted the potential for these events to negatively impact colleges and universities and the students they serve. We learned that hundreds of institutions are unable to access critical short-term funds used to finance their day-to-day operations. At least one major research institution has, as a precautionary measure, instituted a hiring and construction freeze as a result of the ongoing credit crisis.

We are pleased that you have included two-year extensions of the above-the-line deduction for qualified tuition and related expenses and the Individual Retirement Account (IRA) Charitable Rollover in this critical legislation. The tuition deduction enhances access to higher education by helping reduce the cost of attendance. During this time of economic insecurity, it is particularly important that the deduction be extended now to help families manage the costs of attendance in their increasingly strained budgets. In addition, extension of the IRA Charitable Rollover will help colleges and universities generate new or increased contributions to provide additional benefits to students, particularly financial aid.

We strongly urge the Senate to pass this critical legislation as soon as possible to address the economic challenges facing our country and to extend important tax provisions that enhance access for students during this time of economic uncertainty.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Molly C. Broad".

Molly Corbett Broad  
President

MCB\ksm

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On behalf of:  
American Association of State Colleges and Universities  
American Council on Education  
Association of American Universities