

July 17, 2015

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch
Chairman
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sander Levin
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Extension of Expired Higher Education Tax Incentives

Dear Chairman Hatch, Chairman Ryan, Ranking Member Wyden and Ranking Member Levin:

On behalf of the higher education associations listed below, I write to urge you to include extensions of the above-the-line deduction for qualified tuition and related expenses (tuition deduction) and the Individual Retirement Account (IRA) Charitable Rollover in any tax extenders legislation to be enacted this year. Unfortunately, both of these important provisions expired at the end of 2014.

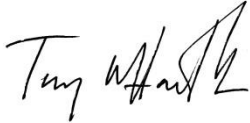
The tuition deduction helps reduce the cost of college by allowing students or their parents to deduct up to \$4,000 in eligible higher education expenses from their taxable income. The tuition deduction is particularly important to graduate students, who are ineligible for the American Opportunity Tax Credit. Regrettably, its expiration last year means many students and families lost a valuable benefit that helps them finance a college education

The IRA Charitable Rollover permits IRA owners who are at least 70½ years old to make tax-free donations to eligible charities, including colleges and universities. Since it was first instituted in 2006, the IRA Charitable Rollover has proven to be a valuable charitable giving incentive that should be extended to help all non-profit organizations generate new or increased contributions. Its lapse impairs the ability of colleges and universities to raise charitable funds at a time when private support is increasingly important to institutions struggling to maintain benefits for students, particularly financial aid, during challenging economic times and significant declines in state appropriations.

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We strongly support these provisions and urge Congress to act swiftly to retroactively extend them this year.

Sincerely,



Terry W. Hartle
Senior Vice President

TWH/law

On behalf of:

American Association of Community Colleges
American Association of State Colleges and Universities
American Council on Education
Association of American Universities
Association of Community College Trustees
Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
College and University Professional Association for Human Resources
Council for Advancement and Support of Education
Council for Opportunity in Education
Council of Graduate Schools
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities
National Association of Colleges and University Business Officers
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities