

October 7, 2013

The Honorable Allyson Y. Schwartz  
United States House of Representatives  
1227 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**Re: Endorsement of the College Affordability Act of 2013**

Dear Representative Schwartz:

On behalf of the American Council on Education and the undersigned higher education associations, I write to endorse the College Affordability Act of 2013, which will make important enhancements to the American Opportunity Tax Credit (AOTC).

This bill will significantly improve the AOTC by “front-loading” the effect of the credit so that students and their families will be able to offset the costs of college more quickly. It increases the refundability component of the AOTC, which will be particularly helpful to low-income students. It replaces the AOTC’s limits on the number of years a student can utilize the credit with a \$10,000 lifetime cap and ensures that the credit will maintain its value over time by indexing the AOTC to inflation. In addition, it better coordinates the interaction of the AOTC with the Pell Grant, which will help ensure that low- and middle-income students benefit from both. Finally, the bill’s taxpayer awareness initiative will help students and their families become more aware of the benefits provided by the credit.

We believe that your bill takes very helpful steps to improve the AOTC, which will enhance access by providing more effective assistance toward an associate or bachelor’s degree.

We are grateful for your efforts to make college more affordable through this legislation. We are pleased to endorse the College Affordability Act of 2013 and look forward to assisting in the work to advance this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Molly Corbett Broad  
President

MCB/lw

On behalf of:

College Affordability Act of 2013

October 7, 2013

Page 2

American Association of State Colleges and Universities

American Association of Community Colleges

American Council on Education

Association of American Universities

Association of Community College Trustees

Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities

Association of Public and Land-grant Universities

Council for Christian Colleges & Universities

Council for Opportunity in Education

Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities

National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities

National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators