

Office of the President

June 7, 2011

United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

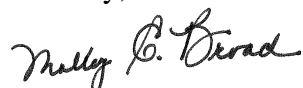
I write on behalf of the higher education associations listed below to oppose the Tester Amendment, which would significantly delay regulatory implementation of the debit card swipe fee reforms enacted last year in the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (“Dodd-Frank Act”). We reiterate our support for these needed reforms, which will provide real relief to students, their families and colleges and universities across the country, and urge that they be implemented in a timely manner consistent with the Dodd-Frank Act.

Debit card swipe fees are a hidden expense for students and families paying for college for which they receive no benefit. As a result of the Dodd-Frank Act and the Federal Reserve's proposed rule, we believe colleges and universities will see reduced debit card costs which they will be able to pass on to students through lower costs as well as increased resources for institutional grant aid and student services. In addition, implementing this reform will create an opportunity for institutions to offer discounts to students for payments made with checks and debit cards.

During this time of economic insecurity, steps like those undertaken in swipe fee reform will help students and their families manage the costs of college with increasingly strained budgets.

We urge the Senate to reject the Tester Amendment and stand with students and the colleges and universities that serve them by ensuring that these debit card swipe fee reforms be fully implemented in a timely manner.

Sincerely,



Molly Corbett Broad  
President

Tester Debit Card Swipe Fee Letter

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MCB/ldw

On behalf of:

American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admission Officers

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 Jesuit Colleges and Universities

Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities

National Association of College and University Business Officers

National Association of College Stores