



February 4, 2010

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Senate Majority Whip
S-321 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Durbin:

We write to express our strong support for the work of the President and Congress to create and retain jobs. Our three associations represent nearly all of the public four-year and two-year higher education institutions in the country.

As the Senate prepares to advance legislation to address the current economic crisis, we urge you to recognize that the creation and retention of jobs at our nation's public higher education institutions is vital to economic recovery and prosperity.

We applaud the Education Jobs Fund established in the recently passed House bill Jobs for Main Street (H.R. 2847). That fund would provide much needed support for jobs in our nation's public higher education institutions and K-12 system. We hope that many of the provisions in the House bill will be included in the Senate jobs package.

Funds from the Education Jobs Fund would be funneled through the governors to the elementary, secondary and public higher education communities. A provision is included that instructs governors to allocate funds based on proportional reductions among the K-12 and higher education accounts. This is an important step toward ensuring fairness, but we ask you to consider stronger and more specific language that would achieve a fair and equitable distribution of funds.

The House bill also includes a "Maintenance of Effort" stipulation as a prerequisite for the receipt of funds that would require states to maintain state support for elementary, secondary, and public higher education at the same level as fiscal year 2009. We applaud this provision and wholeheartedly urge the Senate to include similar language.

We are confident that the final legislation will serve not only the national interest in the protection and creation of jobs, but also the specific needs of the nation's educational institutions. We appreciate your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

Peter McPherson
President, APLU

Muriel A. Howard
President, AASCU

George R. Boggs
President, AACC