

AMERICAN COUNCIL ON EDUCATION



DIVISION OF GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC AFFAIRS

May 27, 2010

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
2314 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey:

The higher education associations listed below thank you for including \$5.7 billion in the FY 2010 supplemental appropriations bill to address the projected shortfall in the Pell Grant Program. Enrollment in higher education increases during difficult economic times and without these additional funds, the impacts on the neediest current and future college students could be devastating.

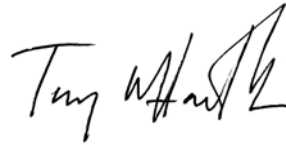
We also appreciate your awareness of the pressures faced by public education across the country as it attempts to address an ever-growing range of societal needs with fewer state and local resources. As you know, economic circumstances have further decreased financial support for public higher education in most states, resulting in job losses, attrition and furloughs. A report by the Education Commission of the States (ECS) concludes that including public higher education in the education jobs fund will save or create more than 50,000 jobs at public colleges and universities in the next year. While we are disappointed that public higher education is not explicitly included in the education jobs provisions, we believe that the \$23 billion for public education would alleviate some of the tremendous financial pressures states currently face, and we hope to work with you as the bill progresses to again include public higher education in the education jobs fund.

We are seriously concerned that unless public higher education is included in the maintenance of effort (MOE) provision, colleges and universities would be vulnerable to further cuts as states strive to meet the elementary and secondary education MOE requirement. We believe that the goal of the education provisions in the bill is to help protect jobs in all of public education, at both elementary and secondary and postsecondary levels. We urge you to add public higher education to the MOE requirements for states. Without such an addition, an unintended consequence of this bill could be further state reductions for colleges and universities.

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Thank you for your efforts to provide needed and important education funds in the FY 2010 supplemental appropriations legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry W. Hartle". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Terry W. Hartle
Senior Vice President
Government and Public Affairs

TWH/ldw

On behalf of:

American Association of Community Colleges (AACC)
American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU)
American Council on Education (ACE)
Association of American Universities (AAU)
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU)