

AMERICAN COUNCIL ON EDUCATION



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

February 6, 2008

The Honorable George Miller
Chairman
Committee on Education and Labor
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Howard "Buck" McKeon
Ranking Member
Committee on Education and Labor
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Miller and Ranking Member McKeon:

I write on behalf of the higher education associations listed below to ask the House to adopt H.R. 4137, the College Opportunity and Affordability Act of 2007. This Higher Education Act reauthorization bill is a bipartisan accomplishment that has taken several years to come to fruition. In concert with the College Cost Reduction and Access Act passed last year, it upholds the federal commitment to ensuring that all those who aspire to attend college, regardless of their means or economic status, will be able to attend.

We would like to acknowledge and express our appreciation for the significant improvements that have been made in this bill as it has evolved over time. In particular, we appreciate the protections contained in the bill that preserve the prerogative of colleges and universities to determine their method of assessing student success, and the preservation of an institution's right to determine when and to whom it awards academic credit. We look forward to working with you to further strengthen and improve the bill as it moves into conference with an eye toward, for example, reducing some of the many new costly reporting requirements with which institutions will be required to comply.

While we will remain actively engaged in the consideration of amendments to H.R. 4137, and will vigorously oppose those that would harm higher education institutions and the students who attend them, we are pleased that the House is moving this bill forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Ward", is written in a cursive style.

David Ward
President

DW\ksm

On behalf of:

American Council on Education
Association of American Universities

The Honorable George Miller

H.R. 4137

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Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities

Council for Higher Education Accreditation

National Association for College Admission Counseling

National Association of College and University Business Officers

National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities

National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges

National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

United Negro College Fund