



February 6, 2008

Representative George Miller
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Miller:

On behalf of the Higher Education Consortium for Special Education (HECSE), we offer our full support for the *College Opportunity and Affordability Act* (H.R. 4137). HECSE both supports the base bill and the Manager's amendment. HECSE members recognize the importance of this legislation. Many provisions will address serious issues in the education of students with disabilities (e.g., preparation of more highly-qualified special education teachers and special education teacher educators, effective preparation of general educators who teach students with disabilities, post-secondary learning opportunities for adults with disabilities).

HECSE is comprised of 60 universities with teacher preparation and doctoral programs in special education. Our member institutions are at the forefront of teacher education, school-based research, and educational development in special education. We work extensively with local and state education agencies to ensure that teachers and other professionals have the skills they need to provide a free appropriate public education to all students with disabilities (e.g., funding, model programs, and accessible learning materials).

We commend you and your Congressional colleagues for your ongoing efforts to ensure the quality of educational opportunities America's students receive. If HECSE members can provide any additional information, we would be happy to do so.

Best regards,

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