

February 6, 2008

Representative George Miller U.S. House of Representatives

## Dear Chairman Miller:

On behalf of the Teacher Education Division of the Council for Exceptional Children (TED), we offer our full support for the *College Opportunity and Affordability* Act (H.R. 4137). TED supports the base bill and the Manager's amendment. TED members recognize the importance of this legislation. Many provisions within this legislation address serious concerns among our members regarding 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).

The Teacher Education Division of the Council for Exceptional Children (TED) represents 2,500 teachers and teacher educators. TED focuses on supporting children, youth, and families of individuals with exceptionalities by preparing special educators. TED is the largest professional organization in the nation representing those who prepare special education teachers and teacher educators. We commend you and your Congressional colleagues for your ongoing efforts to ensure the quality of educational opportunities America's students receive. If TED members can provide any additional information, we would be happy to do so. Best regards,

Chriss Walther-Thomas TED President Professor and Chair University of Kansas <u>chrisswt@ku.edu</u> Peggy Gallagher TED President Elect Professor and Chair Georgia State University SPEPAG@langate.gsu.edu