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A. SCOTT SUDDUTH
Assistant Vice President

February 7, 2008

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The University of California thanks you for your leadership in advancing H.R. 4137, the College Opportunity and Affordability Act, and for working with your colleagues to develop bipartisan legislation to reauthorize the Higher Education Act of 1965. Thank you, too, for your continued outreach to those of us in the higher education community who have been advocating for key improvements to this law, and for the many changes you made to address concerns we raised as this bill developed. It has been rewarding to work with you and your dedicated staff who—throughout this process—remained focused on what is best for students.

We are pleased with a number of changes you made in the Manager's Amendment that will preserve the historic authority of colleges and universities to determine their accreditation and accountability policies; strengthen Title II, Teacher Quality Enhancement programs, without linking the changes to student eligibility for federal student aid programs in Title IV; implement improvements in the federal TRIO programs; add borrower protections in the federal student loan programs and with private student loans; and expand access and opportunity for students to pursue postsecondary education.

We especially appreciate your leadership in moving forward with a study on regional sensitivity in the federal need analysis formula, which will be the first step toward correcting the current financial inequities affecting families in high-cost areas of the country, such as California.

In working through the provisions in the bill to address rising college costs, we appreciate your recognition of California and UC's efforts to offer high-quality and affordable education to students at all income levels. The University works with the students we admit to coordinate an adequate mix of federal, state, and institutional financial aid to meet their demonstrated financial need. We

will continue to implement new and ongoing economic efficiencies while maintaining world-class excellence in our missions of teaching, research, and public service. The University has a positive record in this area and we look forward to working with the Congress and the U.S. Department of Education to develop systems that will increase transparency, improve reporting, and improve financial aid benefits for students.

We support the aim of the legislation to assure that students, parents, and families are adequately informed about the cost of higher education and have comparable information available to make decisions about their higher education options. We are wary, however, of having too many reporting requirements imposed on institutions when there is not a clear need for the data, or a stated purpose for why such data might be useful or necessary for students and families.

On a separate issue, while the University is aware of concerns that have been raised about the peer-to-peer file sharing provisions in the bill, we believe the current language strikes a reasonable balance between institutions' ability to educate and inform students of their responsibilities regarding copyright law, and institutions' inability to monitor content or control the ever-changing technologies associated with peer-to-peer file sharing. At the same time, the University supports the use of peer-to-peer networks in the legal distribution of intellectual property, including communications between researchers and faculty and students.

We are pleased that this bill is advancing, and we look forward to working with you and your colleagues as the process moves along toward reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

Sincerely,



A. Scott Sudduth
Assistant Vice President

cc: President Dynes
Provost Hume
Vice Provost Justus
Executive Vice President Darling
Vice President Sakaki
Members of the California Congressional delegation