

July 30, 2008

The Honorable George Miller, Chairman
The Honorable Howard "Buck" McKeon, Ranking Member
Education & Labor Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Miller and Ranking Member McKeon:

On behalf of the 1,470 members of the Career College Association (CCA) and the over one million students that we represent, I applaud you and the members of your Committee on both sides of the aisle for passing the Higher Education Opportunity Act out of Conference, paving the way for the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act in the 110th Congress.

Passing the Higher Education Opportunity Act makes important, immediate and long overdue improvements to the higher education system. During a time of uncertain economic conditions, the bill sends a strong signal of America's intent to start addressing the issues of building a more globally competitive workforce.

The Higher Education Opportunity Act reduces the burden on our nation's students by bringing greater transparency to the cost of postsecondary education, promoting full and fair lending information and providing protections from aggressive marketing tactics by lenders. The bill makes the cost of college text books more manageable, creates year round Pell grant awards for the many non-traditional students who attend school without a traditional summer break, and fosters greater fairness for service members and their families in postsecondary education.

The legislation also increases access to college by modernizing and streamlining the federal aid application process. A streamlined, easy-to-use system will remove the simple act of applying for aid as a formidable barrier to gaining a higher education assuring that everyone, rich or poor, gets the opportunity to obtain a higher education.

CCA strongly supports this important legislation and urges swift passage in both chambers to allow the bill to reach the President's desk to be signed into law. Thank you once again for moving a quality bill.

Sincerely,



Harris N. Miller
CEO/President