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February 6, 2008

Dear Chairman Miller:

On behalf of the National Direct Student Loan Coalition, I would like to state our support for H.R 4137, the College Opportunity and Affordability Act of 2007. During this reauthorization process for the Higher Education Act, we recognize all of your hard work to ensure a fair and bipartisan effort and that the interests of needy students remain at the forefront of this bill.

We greatly appreciate efforts to control subsidy costs to lenders and to pass on those savings to students in the form of Pell Grants. As Financial Aid Directors, we recognize the greater financial burden that a college education places on families and we thank you for your leadership on making higher education more affordable. It has never been more important that Congress take the lead in expanding financial assistance for needy students.

As Congress continues to work through the reauthorization process, we look forward to working with you to ensure that the interests of students are protected, the Direct Loan Program remains strong and that a fair bill becomes law.

Thanks again to you and the Committee for continued good work on behalf of students.

Sincerely,



Roberta Johnson, Chair
National Direct Student Loan Coalition and
Director, Office of Student Financial Aid
Iowa State University