



August 1, 2002

The Honorable Thomas A. Daschle
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1601

Dear Mr. Leader:

The Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation reported S. 414, the NTIA Digital Network Technology Program Act, on July 9. The bill authorizes \$250 million in appropriations over the next five years for a new "Digital Network Technology" program within the Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration. I am advised that financial assistance is already available for minority-serving institutions of higher education to acquire educational technologies and provide educational services, including faculty development in the use of these technologies, through several Department of Education programs (including programs authorized in the Higher Education Act and the No Child Left Behind Act). Accordingly, the Administration opposes enactment of S. 414.

The President's FY 2003 Budget for the Department of Education proposes more than \$378 million for strengthening minority-serving postsecondary institutions under the Title III and Title V programs of the Higher Education Act, an increase of \$13 million. The Budget also allocates significant resources for technology and teacher training, including \$700 million for the Educational Technology State grants program authorized in the No Child Left Behind Act, and \$2.85 billion for the Teacher Quality State Grants program which can fund pre-service teacher training partnerships. In addition, the President's 2003 Budget also supports technology-related activities in the Department of Agriculture (\$27 million in grants and \$130 million in loans for the Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program), and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (\$20 million for the Neighborhood Networks Program).

The Office of Management and Budget advises that there is no objection to the submission of this letter from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Theodore W. Kassinger".

Theodore W. Kassinger

Identical Letters Sent to:

The Honorable Trent Lott
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-7010

The Honorable John McCain
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Commerce, Science and
Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-6125

The Honorable Ernest F. Hollings
Chairman, Committee on Commerce,
Science and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-6125