



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEES



March 19, 2010

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

Dear Chairman Miller:

On behalf of America's community college leadership, the American Association of Community Colleges (AACCC) and the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) write to express our strong support for the education provisions in H.R. 4872, the "Health Care and Education Affordability Reconciliation Act of 2010."

In the current economic climate, community colleges across the country have seen unprecedented enrollment increases, with an estimated 17% increase in students in just the last two years. As our institutions work to provide needed educational, workforce and related programs, federal student aid is critical. H.R. 4872 provides a robust infusion of \$36 billion in funding for the Pell Grant program. Pell continues to be the most important program in supporting students' ability to live the American Dream and attain a middle-class lifestyle. We also applaud the inclusion of funding for Hispanic-Serving Institutions, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and other Minority-Serving Institutions.

We are especially pleased that the bill provides \$2 billion over four years to support community college training programs as authorized in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, to help workers in need of further training. The funding for this program will support the vital role that community colleges play in providing career and workforce training for those most in need.

The funding provided in this legislation will have a tremendously positive impact on our campuses as they endeavor to meet their complex and critical missions. Thank you again for your leadership and support of students and institutions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George R. Boggs".

George R. Boggs
AACCC CEO and President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Noah Brown".

J. Noah Brown
ACCT CEO and President