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Wichita State University

June 26, 2008

The Honorable Pat Roberts
United States Senate
109 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Roberts:

On behalf of the Coalition of Urban Serving Universities (USU), I am writing to thank you for championing the Urban-Serving Research Universities program in the Higher Education Act (HEA). USU greatly appreciates your commitment to public urban research universities.

USU is a network of public urban research universities that represents every region of our country. University presidents created USU to leverage the intellectual capital and economic power of urban universities, thereby improving urban life and America's competitiveness in the global economy. USU strengthens America's cities by concentrating on three areas—creating a competitive workforce, building strong communities, and improving the health of a diverse population.

I am extremely pleased that 12 of your colleagues joined you in support of the Urban-Serving Research Universities program. As you well know, urban areas face many challenges unique to cities and public urban research universities are distinctly positioned with a broad range of skills and resources – intellectual, human, technological, and social – to engage in these issues. This federal investment in public urban research universities shall scale up innovative efforts and provide a greater national impact on strengthening metropolitan prosperity.

Again, I thank you for your vision and leadership in advancing the importance of this issue. I look forward to continuing to work with you and your colleagues on ensuring this provision is included in the final version of the HEA reauthorization bill, and other issues impacting our urban centers. Through this and similar endeavors to tie public urban research universities with their communities, we will continue to bolster our nation's economic competitiveness and make our cities a better place to live.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy L. Zimpher".

Nancy L. Zimpher
Chair, USU
President, University of Cincinnati