



Urban Serving Universities

101 Constitution Avenue, NW, Suite 600 West, Washington, DC 20001

October 15, 2007

The Honorable George Miller
Chairman
Committee on Education and Labor
United States House of Representatives
2181 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Howard McKeon
Ranking Member
Committee on Education and Labor
United States House of Representatives
2181 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Miller and Ranking Member McKeon:

On behalf of the Urban Serving Universities (USU) Coalition, we are writing to urge you to maintain and revitalize the Urban Community Service program authorized under Title VII Part C of the Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1965, as you move forward with the reauthorization of HEA. In particular, we encourage you to redesign the program to target urban serving research universities and their efforts to strengthen the K-12 education pipeline, local communities, and public health through systemic local partnerships.

USU is a national coalition of diverse public, research universities led by their university presidents, chancellors, and provosts, located in urban centers in each of the four geographic regions in the country. Our institutions not only educate and prepare a highly skilled workforce, but are economic engines that create jobs, seed ideas, incubate businesses, purchase goods and services, and attract high-tech industry and visitors. In 2006, USU membership had a combined economic impact of over \$50 billion in their communities alone.

USU recognizes that our nation is being economically transformed and increasingly reliant upon urban centers. Currently 85 percent of all jobs in the United States are located in the urban core and fringe areas; and by 2030

Arizona State University

California State University –
10 Member Schools

City University of New York
City College

Florida International
University

Georgia State University

Indiana University-Purdue
University Indianapolis

Morgan State University

North Carolina State
University

Ohio State University

Portland State University

Temple University

University of Akron

University of Alabama -
Birmingham

University of Central Florida

University of Cincinnati

University of Colorado –
Denver

University of Houston

University of Illinois at
Chicago

University of Louisville

University of Memphis

University of Minnesota

University of Missouri –
Kansas City

University of New Mexico

University of New Orleans

University of Texas – Austin

Virginia Commonwealth
University

Wichita State University

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86 percent of all Americans will live in cities. As our cities continue to grow, so does the need to address the urgent and unique challenges of these communities: enhancing teacher quality and college access, especially in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; revitalizing the economy of local neighborhoods; and preparing the future urban health workforce to address health disparities.

Urban research universities are uniquely positioned with the broad range of skills and resources – intellectual, human, technological, and social – to engage in these issues. As the Committee on Education and Labor works toward reauthorizing HEA, we recommend you restructure the Urban Community Service program (which currently receives no appropriations) and create competitive grants for urban research universities to expand their capacity to develop and expand initiatives geared toward improving the communities in which they are located. Specifically, we propose these grants focus on solutions to key urban problems related to education, community revitalization, and health and quality of life.

Attached you will find USU's proposed legislative recommendations for Title VII Part C. USU looks forward to working with you on advancing this important piece of legislation. Through this and similar endeavors to tie urban universities with their communities, we can 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". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "N" and "Z".

Nancy L. Zimpher
Chair, Urban Serving Universities Coalition
President, University of Cincinnati

Enclosure: Urban Serving Universities Coalition's Recommendations for Title VII Part C