



USU

Coalition of
Urban Serving Universities

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

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California State University –
10 Member Schools

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–
City College

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University

Georgia State University

Indiana University-Purdue
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Ohio State University

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Chicago

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University of New Orleans

University of Texas – Austin

Virginia Commonwealth
University

Wichita State University

November 13, 2007

The Honorable David Wu
United States House of Representatives
2338 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Wu:

On behalf of the Coalition of Urban Serving Universities (USU), I am writing to thank you for championing a role for urban universities in the Higher Education Act (HEA). USU greatly appreciates that you submitted to Chairman George Miller, as one of your priorities for HEA reauthorization, the Coalition's recommendation to revitalize Title VII Part C.

USU is a national consortium of public urban research universities, led by member presidents. The coalition 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 86 percent of all Americans will live in cities.

USU was formed to enable urban universities to coordinate efforts to sustain the quality of urban life and America's competitiveness in the global economy. Through research-driven activities, strategic initiatives and collaborative community action, USU and its member institutions seek to deepen investments in urban communities throughout the country by concentrating on three initiatives: Human Capital, Strong Communities, and Urban Health. Specifically, USU works to preserve America's strength and future by delivering 21st century educational opportunities to inner-city students, creating economic opportunities to strengthen and invest in local urban economies and leading innovation in urban health reform.

We are extremely pleased that "The College Opportunity and Affordability Act of 2007" introduced by Chairman Miller and Representative Rubén Hinojosa includes the proposal to redesign Title VII Part C. Urban areas face many challenges unique to cities and urban 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 urban universities shall scale up innovative efforts and provide a greater

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national impact on strengthening metropolitan prosperity.

Again, we thank you for your vision and leadership in advancing the importance of this issue. We look forward to working with you on ensuring this provision is included in the final version of the HEA reauthorization bill passed by the 110th Congress. 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 Zimpher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "N" and "Z".

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