



USU

Coalition of
Urban Serving Universities

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

Arizona State University

California State University –
13 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

Virginia Commonwealth
University

Wichita State University

February 19, 2008

Dear Member of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee and House Committee on Education and Labor:

On behalf of the Coalition of Urban Serving Universities (USU), I am writing to urge that the House language for the “Urban Serving Research Institutions” program (Section 706 of H.R. 4137) is maintained in the final version of the Higher Education Act (HEA) reauthorization bill.

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 better leverage the intellectual capital and economic power of urban universities to improve the quality of urban life and drive 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: developing human capital and creating a workforce ready to compete in the new economy of the 21st century; revitalizing urban neighborhoods and fueling economic development; and reducing health disparities and improving community health.

I am extremely pleased that H.R. 4137 restructures Title VII Part C of HEA to create competitive grants for urban research universities that is geared toward improving the communities in which they are located. 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 national impact on strengthening metropolitan prosperity.

Please feel free to contact me at (513) 556-2201 or zimphenl@ucmail.uc.edu if you have any questions. I look forward to working with you on ensuring this provision is included in the final version of the HEA reauthorization bill

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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 L. Zimpher". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'N'.

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