



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

March 30, 2009

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
Tennessee State University
University of Akron
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

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Subcommittee Labor, HHS,
Education
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
131 Dirksen
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Arlen Specter
Ranking Member
Subcommittee Labor, HHS,
Education
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
131 Dirksen
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Specter:

On behalf of the Coalition of Urban Serving Universities (USU), we urge you to fund federal programs that support the core missions of 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. To this end, USU is focused on three major issues -- creating a competitive workforce, building strong communities, and improving the health of a diverse population.

As anchors for our nation's cities and greater metro areas, public urban research universities stand ready and able to play an important role in producing economic stability for our nation's cities and metropolitan areas. These universities are economic drivers and create the jobs, growth, and revenues on which urban areas and our country depend. Public urban research universities also address critical talent issues by enrolling and graduating students in high-need fields, such as nursing and teaching. Additionally, our universities make significant and unique investments in outreach and engagement by establishing collaborative partnerships with local neighborhoods, organizations, and businesses to address community problems, such as housing, economic development, neighborhood revitalization, health care, job training, education, crime prevention, urban planning, etc.

USU calls on Congress to address the following specific priorities in the Labor HHS fiscal year 2010 appropriations bill:

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National Institutes of Health

- Provide adequate overall funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) as a means to support NIH-wide and institute/center specific minority research training programs.

Health Resources and Services Administration

- Provide \$550 million for Public Health Service Act Title VII and VIII programs.

Corporation for National and Community Service

- Restore the annual appropriations for Learn and Serve America to at least its fiscal year 2004 level of \$42.7 million (an increase of approximately \$5.3 million over its current funding level).
- Fund the Campuses of Service and Youth Engagement Zone programs enacted in the National Service reauthorization bill (H.R. 1388).

Department of Education

- Fund the following new programs enacted under the Higher Education Opportunity Act: Partnership Grants for the Establishment of Teaching Residency Programs, Capacity for Nursing Students and Faculty, Centers of Excellence for Veteran Student Success, and University Sustainability Programs.

Although we recognize the tight fiscal climate surrounding the allocation of federal funds, USU strongly encourages you to support such programs that are vital to urban universities and their communities. Through these and similar endeavors, we will continue to bolster our nation's economic competitiveness and make our cities a better place to live. USU looks forward to continuing to work with you and your colleagues as you finalize an appropriations bill for fiscal year 2010.

Sincerely,



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