



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

Arizona State University

April 14, 2010

California State University –
13 Member Schools

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member

Cleveland State University

Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services
and Education

Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services
and Education

Florida International University

Committee on Appropriations

Committee on Appropriations

Georgia State University

U.S. Senate

U.S. Senate

Indiana University-Purdue
University Indianapolis

131 Dirksen

131 Dirksen

Morgan State University

Washington, DC 20510

Washington, DC 20510

North Carolina State University

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Cochran:

Ohio State University

Portland State University

On behalf of the Urban Serving Universities (USU) Coalition, we urge you to provide \$150 million in funding for the Teacher Quality Partnership (TQP) Grants program in the FY 2011 appropriations bill.

State University of New York –
6 Member Schools

Temple University

USU is a network of 45 public urban research universities that represents every region of our country. University presidents created USU to improve urban life and America's competitiveness in the global economy. Our institutions are deeply committed to improving student academic performance and reducing achievement gaps. USU institutions annually award more than 11,000 undergraduate and graduate K-12 teaching degrees. Our institutions are also actively working to promote teacher recruitment, preparation, induction, and retention specifically in high-need urban schools.

Tennessee State University

University of Akron

University of Central Florida

University of Cincinnati

University of Colorado – Denver

University of Houston

TQP is the only federal education program targeted directly to higher education-based teacher preparation. Several USU members have previously benefited from receiving TQP Grants. Sufficient federal support for this program is critical to making sure preparation programs meet the needs of local school districts.

University of Illinois at Chicago

University of Louisville

University of Massachusetts –
Boston

The TQP Grants support intensive partnerships between high-need school districts, high-need P-12 schools, and institutions of higher education to prepare highly effective teachers. The Higher Education Opportunity Act, signed into law last Congress, requires that college teacher preparation programs provide at least a one-year clinical component and two years of high-quality mentoring and guidance to ensure that prospective and new teachers possess the necessary skills to raise student achievement in the classroom. Numerous research studies have shown that rigorous clinical experiences and support are key to teacher effectiveness and retention.

University of Memphis

University of Minnesota

University of Missouri –
Kansas City

University of New Mexico

University of New Orleans

Virginia Commonwealth
University

Grants can also be used to develop teacher residency programs. These one-year master's degree level programs – geared toward career-changers and recent college graduates – put the teacher candidate in the classroom for one year teaching alongside a mentor teacher, while completing the graduate coursework necessary

Wichita State University

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for certification. In addition, teaching residents earn a living wage during their residency. In these challenging economic times, with massive lay-offs and a shrinking job market, teacher residency programs are ideally structured to recruit and support newly unemployed citizens who are seeking a long-term and rewarding job.

This program was originally authorized at \$300 million. We are asking for \$150 million in FY2011 to match the amount appropriated in FY2009 (\$100 million through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and \$50 million through regular FY2009 appropriations). Providing at least \$150 million in FY2010 will help ensure that this program has the capacity to improve the preparation of highly effective teachers by institutions of higher education and their P-12 partners.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. USU looks forward to working with you on ensuring universities are producing high-quality teachers to assist in closing the achievement gap, increasing student preparation for postsecondary education, and ultimately bolstering our nation's economic competitiveness.

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 a long, sweeping underline.

Nancy L. Zimpher
Chair, Coalition of Urban Serving Universities
Chancellor, State University of New York