

December 12, 2014

RE: Reauthorization of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program (S. 2244)

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the American Council on Education and the undersigned higher education associations, I write to urge the Senate to pass S. 2244, the “Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2014,” as passed by the House, without additional amendments before the Senate adjourns. Together, we represent approximately 4,300 traditional two- and four-year nonprofit public and private colleges and universities. We strongly believe that this insurance program created by the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act (TRIA) is critically important to protecting and preserving our nation’s higher education system.

More than a decade since the tragic events of Sept. 11, America’s colleges and universities remain vulnerable. Campuses nationwide are open to the public and are visited by scores of individuals every day, whether for educational purposes, community, political, cultural or sports gatherings, or research in sophisticated laboratories—and thus they are potential “soft targets” for terrorism.

A fine example of public-private partnership, the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program provides a national plan enabling colleges and universities to responsibly manage their risk. Without TRIA reauthorization, colleges and universities would most likely not be able to obtain adequate, reasonably priced insurance covering such events.

Without TRIA, many colleges and universities will be faced with very difficult and unwelcome choices: either going without terrorism insurance or purchasing more limited coverage at higher costs. If they chose to opt out, they would expose themselves to great financial risk, and in the event of a catastrophe, would have to rely on government grants or private charitable gifts to recover. If they chose to purchase more expensive insurance, the costs would be absorbed into their operating budgets, diverting resources away from academic programs, reducing services to students, and possibly passing the costs onto students and their families through higher tuition.

The Senate successfully negotiated the TRIA provisions included in this legislation and this bill passed the House Wednesday by an overwhelming 417-7 vote. Given the importance of colleges and universities to our long-term economic growth and to helping sustain our

Letter supporting reauthorization of Terrorism Risk Insurance Act.

Page 2

December 12, 2014

vibrant society, we urge the Senate to pass S.2244 with no amendments prior to adjournment.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry W. Hartle". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Terry W. Hartle
Senior Vice President

TWH/ldw

On behalf of:

American Association of Community Colleges

American Association of State Colleges and Universities

American Council on Education

Association of American Universities

Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities

Association of Public and Land-grant Universities

College and University Professional Association for Human Resources

EDUCAUSE

National Association of College and University Business Officers

National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities