



September 17, 2014

The Honorable Chris Coons
127A Russell Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Coons,

On behalf of the 420 member institutions and systems of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, I am pleased to offer our support of your legislation to promote college access through innovative dual and concurrent enrollment programs.

The "Fast Track to College Act" would provide funding for new partnerships between school districts and institutions of higher education to create and promote broader access to such programs for low-income students. There is a strong body of evidence that dual and concurrent enrollment programs provide some of the most successful pathways to college attendance and graduation, particularly for low-income students. Your legislation provides strong incentives for carefully crafted dual enrollment programs that at once promote greater rigor, more awareness of post-graduation college options, and proper support services to transition needy students from high school to college.

AASCU is a Washington-based higher education association of nearly 420 public colleges, universities and systems whose members share a learning- and teaching-centered culture, a historic commitment to underserved student populations and a dedication to research and creativity that advances their regions' economic progress and cultural development.

We thank you for your leadership on behalf of greater access to higher education and look forward to working with you on this and other educational initiatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Edward M. Elmendorf'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent 'E' and 'M'.

Edward M. Elmendorf
Vice President
Government Relations & Policy Analysis