

June 26, 2013

United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

We write to strongly endorse the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act of 2013 (S. 744). As leaders of the higher education community, we believe that S. 744 is a very sound and important bill which is critical to our nation's future. U.S. colleges and universities, which are both educators and employers, would benefit from the improvements to our immigration system included in S. 744. We urge you to vote for the bill.

As educators of the nation's next generation of workers and citizens, we are particularly appreciative of the inclusion of the DREAM Act in the bill. The DREAM Act provisions offer thousands of undocumented students, who graduate from our high schools every year, an expedited path to citizenship for accomplishing academic pursuits and/or serving in the U.S. military. It also serves our long-term economic growth by providing these young people a way out of the shadows and into our workforce.

The bill also includes crucial provisions that would end the current practice of training talented international students at U.S. colleges and universities and then requiring these students to exit the country upon completion of their studies. The bill streamlines the green card process for advanced degree graduates with science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) degrees and graduates with doctorate degrees in any field, and provides a viable package for overall green card backlog relief. These are policy changes that will improve the nation's immigration system and bolster our economy.

In addition, the H-1B provisions in the bill will permit the higher education community to continue to bring many of the best minds from across the world to U.S. campuses to teach our students and perform critical research.

This legislation is an historic opportunity toward creating an immigration system with bipartisan support that better serves the needs of our country. We urge you not to let this opportunity pass and respectfully request your support for the bill.

June 26, 2013

Sincerely,

Michael Reilly
Executive Director
American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers

Walter R. Bumphus
President and CEO
American Association of Community Colleges

Muriel A. Howard
President
American Association of State Colleges and Universities

Molly Corbett Broad
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Carrie L. Billy, J.D.
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Rev. Michael J. Sheeran, SJ
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Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities

Peter McPherson
President
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities

Edward O. Blews, Jr.
President
Council for Christian Colleges and Universities

Debra W. Stewart
President
Council of Graduate Schools

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President and CEO

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NAFSA: Association of International Educators

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