

July 17, 2015

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch  
Chairman  
Committee on Finance  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Finance  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Chairman  
Committee on Ways and Means  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sander Levin  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Ways and Means  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: Extension of Expired Higher Education Tax Incentives**

Dear Chairman Hatch, Chairman Ryan, Ranking Member Wyden and Ranking Member Levin:

On behalf of the higher education associations listed below, I write to urge you to include extensions of the above-the-line deduction for qualified tuition and related expenses (tuition deduction) and the Individual Retirement Account (IRA) Charitable Rollover in any tax extenders legislation to be enacted this year. Unfortunately, both of these important provisions expired at the end of 2014.

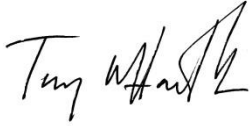
The tuition deduction helps reduce the cost of college by allowing students or their parents to deduct up to \$4,000 in eligible higher education expenses from their taxable income. The tuition deduction is particularly important to graduate students, who are ineligible for the American Opportunity Tax Credit. Regrettably, its expiration last year means many students and families lost a valuable benefit that helps them finance a college education

The IRA Charitable Rollover permits IRA owners who are at least 70½ years old to make tax-free donations to eligible charities, including colleges and universities. Since it was first instituted in 2006, the IRA Charitable Rollover has proven to be a valuable charitable giving incentive that should be extended to help all non-profit organizations generate new or increased contributions. Its lapse impairs the ability of colleges and universities to raise charitable funds at a time when private support is increasingly important to institutions struggling to maintain benefits for students, particularly financial aid, during challenging economic times and significant declines in state appropriations.

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We strongly support these provisions and urge Congress to act swiftly to retroactively extend them this year.

Sincerely,



Terry W. Hartle  
Senior Vice President

TWH/law

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 Community College Trustees  
Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges  
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities  
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities  
College and University Professional Association for Human Resources  
Council for Advancement and Support of Education  
Council for Opportunity in Education  
Council of Graduate Schools  
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities  
National Association of Colleges and University Business Officers  
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities