

e-Bulletin20090209

Higher ED Stimulus Package needs YOUR help

Dear Colleagues,

The federal stimulus bill is in trouble—especially the sections that were to have added funding for public higher education. The “compromise” worked out in the Senate over the weekend slashes billions of dollars from the original Senate bill that would have increased the operating budgets of public colleges through the State Stabilization Fund and provided for construction of new college buildings.

The Senate needs to hear that it is not acceptable to cut higher education funding from the stimulus bill. Senators are expected to vote on the “compromise” tomorrow, and then to begin the process of reconciling their bill with the bill already passed in the House of Representatives. The outcome of the bill could have a direct effect on the Temple budget.

I am asking you to stop what you’re doing right now and contact your senator and President Obama with the message **that funds for public higher education aid and construction in the stimulus bill must be restored and an enhanced stimulus bill must be passed.**

Public higher education is the key to revitalizing the economy: increased operating aid and funds for college construction will create jobs in the short term and produce lasting economic recovery in the long term—through mass education, workforce development and research.

A sample letter follows below.

Call or FAX your Senator at the numbers listed below:

State	Senators	Phone number	Fax Number
DE	Thomas Carper	202-224-2441	202-228-2190
	Edward Kaufman	202-224-5042	202-228-3075
NJ	Frank Lautenberg	202-224-3224	202-228-4054
	Robert Menendez	202-224-4744	202-228-2197
PA	Robert Casey, Jr.	202-224-6324	202-228-0604
	Arlen Specter	202-224-4254	202-228-1229

Call President Obama at 202-456-1111.

Keep trying if the lines are busy, or send a fax to your Congressional representative's office urging passage of the stimulus bill and restoration of all education funding:

We have one day to make a difference in the Senate; don't wait.

The bigger battle may be later this week, as the Senate and House versions are reconciled, and I expect to be calling on you again. Even more is at stake. To make the most impact, please make your call and/or send your fax before noon Tuesday.

In solidarity,

Arthur Hochner
President

Please feel free to cut and paste the sample letter below and send it to your reps.

SAMPLE LETTER

Dear Senator _____:

As your constituent, I am calling on you to urgently and vigorously fight for the restoration of full education funding in the stimulus bill. Your support for this investment is vital to our students, to local taxpayers in your district who are feeling the pain of this recession, and to getting our state's economy back on track.

I am counting on you to stand up to restore the cuts to:

the State Stabilization Fund (\$79 billion to close education budget gaps)

Title I funding (\$13 billion) and

School and public higher education modernization/facilities money.

Polls of your constituents show that even in tough times, they overwhelmingly reject cutting education. This money must remain in the stimulus package to help students in our public schools and colleges, restore state cuts to education, and bring new jobs to our state. Please advocate fiercely for these essential resources for our state.

Thank you.

Your Name Here