



Office of the President

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June 14, 2007

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
2314 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey:

On behalf of the entire University of Wisconsin System, I am writing to thank you for the strong leadership that you and your colleagues on the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations subcommittee have provided for higher education. We are grateful for the provisions in the bill that will strengthen federal financial aid and expand access to all qualified students.

We also extend our thanks for listening to concerns about the U.S. Department of Education's negotiated rulemaking process, and for taking action to prohibit the Department from enforcing new accreditation regulations. The autonomy and diverse nature of American universities and colleges are essential to the country's strength. That is why we are so concerned about "one-size-fits-all" regulations that could damage this complex and evolving sector and stifle innovation.

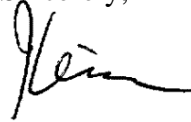
We in higher education recognize that we need to provide students and families with information up front that is easier to understand and analyze as they make choices about which college to attend. We also must do a better job of demonstrating the value-added outcomes of our work on their behalf. I think you know that our major higher education associations in Washington are working very seriously with us on new systems that will accomplish both these worthy goals. Empowering a few federal appointees to decide what the appropriate results of teaching and learning should be in all our colleges and universities – and whether institutions have adequately achieved them – would place way too much authority in way too few places ill-equipped to handle it.

On a happier note, I am pleased to report that Regent Mark Bradley, of Wausau, officially assumed the Presidency of the UW System Board of Regents last week, after two years of service as the Board's Vice President. Regent Charles Pruitt, of Shorewood,

The Honorable David Obey
June 14, 2007
Page Two

was elected Board Vice President after serving as Chair of the Business, Finance and Audit Committee. They share my desire to work with you and your staff on important higher education issues. Together, we thank you for all that you do for our institutions, our state, and our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin P. Reilly', written in a cursive style.

Kevin P. Reilly
President

cc: UW Board of Regents
Chancellors
Cabinet
David Ward, ACE
Peter McPherson, NASULGC
Constantine Curris, AASCU
Judith Eaton, CHEA