



May 24, 2010

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The Honorable Sander M. Levin  
Chairman  
Committee on Ways and Means  
1236 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Levin:

As president of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), I write on behalf of the nation's 1,200 community colleges and their more than 10 million credit students. I would like to state AACC's strong support for H.R. 4213, "The American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act of 2010." America's community colleges have a strong role to play in the continuing economic recovery, and this legislation will help them do that.

AACC applauds the provisions in this legislation that refine and improve Section 278 of the Trade Act, which authorizes the Community College and Career Training Program. This program was funded at \$500 million for each of FYs 2011-14 by H.R. 4872, and is an outgrowth of the American Graduation Initiative that was proposed by President Obama and passed by the House of Representatives last September.

The changes to the Section 278 program will enable community colleges to better serve the pressing economic needs of their local service areas. First, it clarifies the clear Congressional intent that the funding provided for this program in H.R. 4872 be targeted on public and non-profit institutions of higher education. Just as importantly, the legislation broadens the scope of individuals for whom eligible programs can be designed, particularly those who may become unemployed. The legislation would also give the Department of Labor needed flexibility in the time it has to expend funds. This is important to ensure that they are well-targeted—we expect a robust competition for funds.

AACC urges enactment of H.R. 4213 as quickly as possible, and thanks you for your leadership on this and other critical issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George R. Boggs". The signature is written in a cursive style.

George R. Boggs  
AACC President and CEO