



For Immediate Release

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***EXPERT PANEL CONFIRMS NEED FOR SENATE TO PASS  
HIGHER EDUCATION ACT REAUTHORIZATION***

**Washington, DC** – U.S. Senator Mike Enzi (R-WY), Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee (HELP Committee), today issued the following statement on the report issued by the Commission on the Future of Higher Education:

“The recommendations in the Commission’s report confirm the need for Congress to reauthorize the Higher Education Act in order to increase access, lower costs, and improve transparency and accountability. Almost a year ago, the HELP Committee approved the ‘Higher Education Amendments of 2005,’ a bill that included provisions addressing many of the report’s key recommendations. That bill would increase need-based aid, improve access to information about institutions of higher education so that students and parents can make more informed decisions, and require greater accountability and transparency in higher education.

“The Commission’s report reinforces the need to pass the higher education reauthorization bill. As I continue to work to reauthorize the Higher Education Act, I will consider how to address the recommendations of the Commission.

“I would like to thank Secretary Spellings for forming the Commission on the Future of Higher Education to investigate the critical issues of accessibility, affordability, and accountability for America’s post-secondary institutions. I would also like to thank the Commission’s bipartisan panel of experts for their diligent work to prepare this report and make recommendations regarding these important issues so that our postsecondary institutions continue to meet the challenges of a competitive global economy.”

Enzi’s remarks followed Secretary Spellings’ announcement of her plans to address the Commission’s report at the National Press Club today.

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