



For Immediate Release

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Thursday, September 27, 2007

***ENZI CALLS ON HOUSE DEMOCRAT LEADERS TO ACT NOW  
ON BILL TO REAUTHORIZE AND REFORM  
HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS***

**Washington, D.C.** – U.S. Senator Mike Enzi (R-WY), Ranking Member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, today commended President Bush for signing into law the first step toward making college more affordable and accessible, the College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007, but said that Congress must act now on the Higher Education Amendments of 2007, S. 1642, to provide the kind of reforms students and working families need now.

“I am grateful that the President is standing with Senator Kennedy and me as we work with the House to sign into law a comprehensive reauthorization of the Higher Education Act,” Enzi said. “The reconciliation bill signed today takes important steps to increase grant aid to students in college, but our work is only half done without the important, bipartisan reforms included in the reauthorization bill.”

“I was especially pleased hear the President place priority on year-round Pell grants and commit to working with Congress to get that done. The Senate has already passed the year-round Pell grant provision as part of S. 1642, which moved through the Senate on a vote of 95 – 0. How long will House Democrat leaders stall our bipartisan efforts to deal with improving and updating programs like the Pell grant? Now is the time to get comprehensive higher education reform, before we tackle No Child Left Behind,” Enzi said.

The Higher Education Act expired in September, 2004, and has since been extended eight times, but is still due for reauthorization. Enzi urged leaders in the House of Representatives to mark up reauthorization legislation similar to S. 1642 by October 15.

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