



For Immediate Release

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***ENZI CELEBRATES FINAL PASSAGE OF
HIGHER EDUCATION ACT REAUTHORIZATION***

**SAYS BILL WILL MAKE COLLEGE MORE AFFORDABLE,
HOLD UNIVERSITIES AND LENDERS ACCOUNTABLE**

Washington D.C. – U.S. Senator Mike Enzi, R-WY, Ranking Member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee (HELP Committee), today celebrated final passage of an agreement to reauthorize the Higher Education Act (HEA), which he said will improve higher education affordability, access, and accountability.

“Completing this bill was a marathon, but we’ve reached the finish line,” Enzi said. “Today is a great day for America’s students and their families. This bill is critical to enhancing our economic security, and improving the knowledge and skills that are the gateway to the future for our students, working families, and businesses.

“After over four years of negotiations, I am proud to send the President this bill to strengthen higher education programs and expand access to a college education for millions of Americans. The bipartisan agreement we’ve approved today ensures that students who are in school or will enter postsecondary education over the next decade will find it easier to get the education they need and to develop the skills and knowledge to be successful in this competitive world.”

Enzi said that Senate approved H.R. 4137, the “Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008,” by an 83-8 vote today.

“This agreement will restore students’ trust in student loan programs by holding lenders and schools to a code of conduct. It will also ensure that students and parents have the information they need about the costs of college and the financial impact of their loans so they can make sound decisions about their futures.”

The final conference agreement will include provisions to:

- Provide consumer friendly, easy to access and understand, detailed information about college tuition and fees.

- Simplify the financial aid application process.
- Require colleges to establish Codes of Conduct to prohibit their financial aid employees from receiving anything of value in exchange for advantages sought by lenders.
- Require greater disclosure in college costs, including: college price watch lists; internet-based calculators of the net cost of college; and greater disclosure of textbook costs.
- Provide in-state tuition for members of the Armed Forces and their dependents who have lived in a state for more than 30 days.
- Authorize year-round Pell grants so that students can accelerate their course of study, and expand grant programs for non-traditional students.

“I want to thank my colleagues, especially Senators Kennedy and Mikulski and Congressmen Miller and McKeon, for keeping their commitment to complete this conference agreement,” Enzi said.

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SUMMARY OF HIGHLIGHTS IN THE CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

TITLE I – GENERAL PROVISIONS

- Incorporates new requirements for greater transparency in college costs, including: college price watch lists; internet-based calculators of the net cost of college; a Department of Education webpage that displays information relevant to college costs; and greater disclosure of textbook costs.
- Establishes institutional eligibility criteria for foreign nursing schools, and provides for a study to identify high quality standards by which foreign medical schools can gain access to Federal student loan programs.
- Includes a sense of the Congress on the protection of student speech and association rights.
- Provides in-state tuition for the dependents of members of the Armed Forces who have lived in a state for more than 30 days.
- Establishes specific disclosure requirements for Institutions of Higher Education (IHE’s) with preferred lender arrangements.

TITLE II – TEACHER QUALITY ENHANCEMENTS

- Authorizes a Teacher Quality and Partnership Grants program and includes a Centers of Excellence program named for Augustus F. Hawkins, the first African-American to represent the state of California in the United States Congress.
- Includes three new programs: Preparing Teachers for Digital Age Learners; Teach to Reach; and Adjunct Teacher Corps.

TITLE III – INSTITUTIONAL AID

- Authorizes a new Predominantly Black Institutions program intended to strengthen eligible institutions.
- Makes improvements to the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Capital Financing program.
- Authorizes a new YES Partnership Grant, to provide support for minority youth engagement in STEM through outreach and experiential learning.
- Expands the authorized activities for programs that serve Alaskan Natives, Native Hawaiians, Native Americans, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders.

TITLE IV – STUDENT ASSISTANCE

- Increases the authorization of the maximum Pell grant by \$400 per year, taking the maximum Pell grant from \$6,000 to \$8,000 over 6 years.
- Authorizes year-round Pell grants.
- Establishes a zero expected family contribution for dependent children of military members killed in action.
- Establishes a second review procedure for TRIO programs and incorporates a greater emphasis on financial literacy as a permissible activity.
- Expands loan forgiveness programs.
- Requires IHE's to adopt "codes of conduct" with respect to their relationships with financial institutions.
- Clarifies the conditions under which an education loan may be discharged if a student dies or becomes disabled.
- Increases the book allowance and flexibility to transfer funds within campus-based programs, and makes changes to the work-study program, including a greater emphasis on public service and disaster recovery.
- Includes measures to: simplify the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA); develop an EZ-FAFSA; and study ways to simplify the financial aid application process.
- Clarifies the conditions under which a student may lose Title IV eligibility as a result of a drug conviction, and how such student may regain eligibility.

- Requires IHE's to readmit students who withdraw from coursework as a result of military deployment.
- Requires IHE's to combat the unauthorized distribution of copyrighted material.
- Accommodates the unique mission of community colleges with respect to the collection of completion rate data.
- Amends the Clery Act to require greater coordination between campus security and local law enforcement, greater transparency in how a university may notify the campus community in the event of an emergency, and expansion of the list of crimes for which hate crime data are collected.
- Moves the 90/10 requirement to the program participation agreement, clarifies the resources that may be used in the calculation of the 10%, and provides temporary relief from the 90/10 requirement in response to the increase in loan limits and need-based aid enacted over the past 18 months.
- Modifies requirements for the accreditation process and restricts the ability of the Secretary to regulate on accreditation standards.

TITLE V – DEVELOPING INSTITUTIONS

- Authorizes a new program for promoting postbaccalaureate opportunities at Hispanic-serving institutions of higher education (HSI's).

TITLE VI – INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

- Supports projects for students in STEM fields to achieve foreign language proficiency and authorizes a new program to support greater international scientific collaboration.
- Modifies the existing Centers for International Business Education to explicitly include HBCU's and HSI's as eligible recipients and expands the authorized activities of the program.
- Requires additional reporting of gifts received by IHE's from foreign sources.

TITLE VII – GRADUATE & POSTSECONDARY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS

- Authorizes a new program to provide competitive grants to qualifying master's degree programs in STEM and health fields at a specified list of HBCU's and PBIs to strengthen the institutions through improving instructional facilities, purchasing library and other materials, strengthening management of funds, providing fellowships and other activities.
- Expands the authorized activities of the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education to include: support for limited English proficient students; housing support for homeless students and students formerly in foster care during academic breaks; support for diversity in the entertainment industry; establish a Center for Best Practices to Support Single Parent Students; a priority for IHE's that meet certain energy efficiency standards for new construction; and a new scholarship program for

dependent children and spouses of post-9/11 veterans killed or disabled in duty and current active duty military personnel.

- Modifies and creates a number of programs to support students with disabilities in postsecondary education, including: demonstration projects to support postsecondary faculty, staff and administrators in educating students with disabilities; transition programs for students with intellectual disabilities; programs to support improved access to materials; and a National Center for Information and Technical Support to provide information on best and promising practices to students with disabilities.

TITLE VIII – ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

- Includes 29 new programs. (This is in addition to a number of new authorizations in other titles of the conference agreement.)
- Requires the Secretary of Education, in consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of Homeland Security, to advise IHE's with respect to model emergency response procedures.
- Requires that the Secretary of Education continue to advise institutions of higher education with respect to the disclosure of education records when a student poses a significant risk of harm to himself or others.

TITLE IX – AMENDMENTS TO OTHER LAWS

- Modifies or reauthorizes the: Education of the Deaf Act of 1986; United States Institute of Peace Act; Higher Education Amendments of 1998; Higher Education Amendments of 1992; Tribally Controlled College or University Assistance Act of 1978; Navajo Nation Higher Education Act of 2006; and the John R. Justice Prosecutors and Defenders Incentive Act of 2007.
- Clarifies that prohibitions on Executive Branch conflicts of interest do not preclude an institution of higher education from offering loan forgiveness benefits to those who enter public service careers in the Executive Branch.
- Creates in the Department of Commerce a competitive grant program for MSI's to strengthen capacity for instruction in digital and wireless technologies and to increase the national investment in telecommunications and technology infrastructure at MSI's.

TITLE X – PRIVATE STUDENT LOAN IMPROVEMENT

- Amends the Truth in Lending Act to include additional disclosure requirements around private education loans intended to prevent unfair and deceptive lending practices.
- Includes restrictions or prohibitions on gift giving, revenue sharing arrangements, co-branding, participation on advisory councils, and prepayment fees and penalties for institutions of higher education and private educational lenders.

TITLE XI – STUDIES AND REPORTS

- Includes a total of 21 new studies to be completed by the Department of Education, the National Academies, or the GAO.

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