



For Immediate Release

Contact: Craig Orfield
(202) 224-6770

Thursday, August 14, 2008

***ENZI APPLAUDS SIGNING OF
HIGHER EDUCATION ACT REAUTHORIZATION***

***SAYS LAW 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 applauded President Bush for signing into law a bill to reauthorize the Higher Education Act (HEA), which he said will improve higher education affordability, access, and accountability.

“Today is a great day for America’s students and their families preparing for school this fall and in the years to come,” Enzi said. “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 have the President sign this bill to strengthen higher education programs and expand access to a college education for millions of Americans. The bipartisan agreement enacted 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,” by an 83-8 vote on July 31.

“This agreement will restore students’ trust in student loan programs by holding lenders and schools to a code of conduct,” Enzi said. “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 “Higher Education Opportunity Act” includes 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.

#####