

***TICUA Policy Update***  
***March 15, 2007***

***Keep the Student Emails Coming!***

Recent days have seen a drop in the number of students sending “thank you” emails to the Legislators concerning the Tennessee Student Assistance Award (TSAA). TICUA is advocating for a significant increase in the program but this effort cannot be successful without student support.

It is critical that legislators from across the state receive a number of emails from their constituents in support of the TSAA. This can only be accomplished by every campus mobilizing their students to write emails.

TICUA has made this process easy for students to use. Simply direct your students to <http://capwiz.com/ticua/state/main/?state=TN> and click on TAKE ACTION. There the students will find some background information on the TSAA and talking points that they can use in their email message. Even some parents of TSAA recipients have used the site!

***TSAA Reversion Exemption Passes Senate***

The Tennessee State Senate unanimously passed the TSAA reversion exemption bill this past Monday evening. The exemption essentially provides an additional \$1.3 million for use in the TSAA. Over the years higher education administrative units have been asked to revert a certain portion of their appropriation to the State’s general fund. Historically those funds have been taken from the need-based student aid program. This bill no longer allows the reversion to be taken from the grant program.

The bill has yet to be heard in the House. It has been referred to the House Education Committee but has yet to be placed on the calendar.

***Bills Impacting the TICUA Benefit Consortium Move in Senate***

Two bills that impact the TICUA Benefit Consortium have passed the Senate Commerce, Labor, and Agriculture Committee this week. The first bill, exempting the Consortium from premium taxes, passed the committee and has been sent to the Senate Finance, Ways, and Means Committee. The second bill, redefining what constitutes a pooled insurance group and exempts the Consortium from certain mandated benefits, passed the committee and should be heard by the full Senate this next week. Both bills have been put on notice in the House and should be placed on the House Industrial Impact Subcommittee this next week.