

***TICUA Policy Update***  
***April 13, 2007***

***Medical School Scholarship Bills Move Forward***

Legislation that would create a medical school loan/scholarship program moved out of the House Education Committee this week. The program would provide 20 scholarships for each of the public and private medical schools in Tennessee. The scholarships require that the students practice medicine in Tennessee for one year for each year they received the scholarship. Failing to graduate or fulfill the service obligation requires the student to repay the funds received at 12% interest. The Senate companion bill has also passed the Senate Education Committee. Both bills have been referred to their respective Finance, Ways, and Means Committees.

The House Education Committee also passed a bill that has the same scholarship structure but is restricted to TICUA members only. The bill has been referred to House Finance, Ways, and Means Committee. The Senate has stalled the companion bill in the Senate Education Committee.

***TICUA Benefits Consortium Bills Pass House Industrial Impact***

The House Industrial Impact Sub-committee passed both bills affecting the TICUA Benefits Consortium (TBC). HB2081 provides for exemption from the premium taxes from once the bill becomes law. This provision provides the same tax exemption recognition for the TBC as enjoyed by public colleges and universities. HB2082 redefines the definition of a health insurance pool from the number of employers to the number of lives covered. Both bills provide ongoing benefit to the TBC. Both bills will be heard next week in the House Commerce Committee.

***House Education to Hear Testimony on Lottery***

House Education Chairman Les Wainwright announced that the Committee will hear testimony on the nearly 50 lottery scholarship bills this next week. TICUA, UT, TBR, TSAC, and THEC have been asked to be available to review the bills with the Committee. The House Higher Education Subcommittee will begin review of the bills following the testimony.

***Pressnell to Testify Before Congress***

TICUA President Claude Pressnell has been asked by Chairman Ruben Hinojosa (D-TX), to testify before the United States House Subcommittee on Higher Education, Competitiveness, and Lifelong Learning. Pressnell will be testifying in his capacity as Vice Chair of the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance (ACSFA). The Committee is exploring issues related to eliminating barriers to college access. The ACSFA has recently provided advice to Congress on how to remove many of the barriers

students experience in the areas of early information and applying for student financial aid.