

TICUA Policy Update
March 31, 2006

Action Needed NOW

Over \$20 million; that is the fiscal note for allowing non-regionally accredited, for-profit, non degree granting business colleges into the lottery scholarship program. Amazingly, the fiscal note only estimates their eligibility for the Wilder-Naifeh Technology Grant portion of TELS. The fiscal note will rise exponentially if degree granting for-profit colleges are allowed into the program.

There are currently a handful of bills in the Tennessee Senate and House that would amend the definition of eligible institutions for the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship. These bills will be before their respective committees this next week to ten days. TICUA's position is that the current requirements of regional accreditation and being domiciled in Tennessee ensure the integrity of the program of eligible institutions. If other institutions desire to participate in the program then they should meet the same criteria of current eligible colleges and universities.

Take action NOW! www.ticua.org/action_center

TICUA Seeks Amendment to Provide Relief to TBC

TICUA is seeking an amendment to instruct the Department of Insurance to cede oversight authority of the TICUA Benefit Consortium to the Federal Department of Labor. TBC was formed under Federal ERISA law in order to assist TICUA members to control health insurance costs. The State Department of Insurance is uncomfortable with ceding authority without a directive to do so. This amendment provides such language. TICUA has sponsors to move the amendment in both the House and Senate.

Thank YOU From NAICU and TICUA

The House of Representatives approved its Higher Education Act reauthorization bill (H.R. 609) by a vote of 221 to 199. The bill that emerged from the House was much improved over the version first presented, thanks to your OUTSTANDING EFFORTS. Over 500 NAICU presidents shared with me their communications with members of Congress. Although the changes made in H.R. 609 still did not bring us to a position of being able to support the measure, these changes do represent substantial progress.

Our work is not over, as the reauthorization focus shifts to the Senate. NAICU will once again be calling upon you to help encourage the development of a final measure that will serve the needs of students, and will avoid inappropriate governmental interference into the operations of our institutions. We hope that our mutual efforts can lead to a genuinely bipartisan approach to these matters in a final bill.

In the meantime, thanks again. NAICU's position prevailed on three critical amendments, and the advances we made simply would not have been possible without your steadfast and impassioned support.

-Submitted by David Warren, NAICU President

ACSFA to Hold Hearings in DC

This next week the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance, charged with advising Congress and the Secretary of Education on student aid and access issues, will host hearings to explore innovative pathways to college. The eleven member committee will hear testimony about effective and creative ways to increase access to colleges and universities. TICUA is represented by Dr. Claude Pressnell who was recently reappointed to a three term as a member of ACSFA by Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist.