



Los Angeles Area  
Chamber of Commerce

August 25, 2009

Honorable George Miller  
Chair, Committee on Education and Labor  
2181 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

RE: HR 3221 (Miller) - Support

Dear Chairman Miller:

I am writing on behalf of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, our members and the local business community and we are pleased to support HR 3221, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act, a significant step to improve early education opportunities and make college dramatically more affordable for American families.

Among this bill's many pro-children and pro-student provisions is the creation of an Early Learning Challenge Fund to help increase the number of low-income children in high-quality early learning centers. The Chamber supports this bill and, in particular, the Early Learning Challenge Fund to improve our state's early education system. Last year, California took significant steps toward creating improved early learning centers for our children. Thanks to bi-partisan legislation, we now have the nation's largest state preschool program and mandated system reforms that will improve the performance of California's investments in early childhood education.

Recently, a Public Policy Institute of California study found that California needs more than 1 million college degrees by the year 2025 to produce the college-educated workers it will need to staff a technologically sophisticated economy of the future. At a time when California's economy demands higher skills, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act will help to provide increased federal student aid; reliable and affordable, high-quality Federal student loans; and will help build a 21st century workforce by increasing investments in higher education and requiring greater accountability to identify innovative practices to improve student success.

With over 1.5 million businesses and 18 million residents, the Southern California economy is essential to the future growth and prosperity of the nation. There is no doubt that Southern California provides a significant return on investment to America. With an economy ranking 15th in the world, the region has more people, more businesses and more international trade than 47 states in our nation. The Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act will provide a greater economic investment in education to ensure California and America's future to produce a qualified and skilled 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce. Again, we applaud your efforts to support HR 3221 and look forward to assisting you in its passage.

Sincerely,

Gary Toebben  
President & CEO  
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce