

American Council on Education



Office of the President

July 24, 2008

U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the higher education associations listed below, I write to express our strong support for H.R. 1469 and S. 991, the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation Act of 2007. The Simon bill, introduced by Sens. Richard Durbin (D-IL) and Norm Coleman (R-MN), enjoys broad bipartisan support, including 50 Senate sponsors. Last year, the House passed its version of the legislation, H.R. 1469, by voice vote and earlier this year, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee favorably reported the Simon bill. We urge the Senate to promptly pass this important and worthwhile measure which is now included in S. 3297, The Advancing America's Priorities Act.

Strong study abroad programs are important to our economic competitiveness, our future diplomacy and security efforts, and clearly, the education of our students. For the American workforce to be competitive in the global marketplace, our students need real, first-hand experience in and knowledge of the world outside the United States.

This legislation, which follows the excellent work of the Commission on the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Fellowship Program, will enable all sectors of the student population to have a study abroad experience and expand study abroad opportunities to non-traditional but critical destinations. The bill's stated target of having 1 million students studying abroad in 10 years is vital and feasible, and the program legislated in the Simon bill would enable us to achieve that goal.

We appreciate the recognition of a majority of the Senate of the importance and significance of this legislation and again, we encourage swift passage of the Simon bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Molly Corbett Broad".

Molly Corbett Broad
President

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On behalf of:
American Association of Community Colleges
American Association of State Colleges and Universities

Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation Act of 2007

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Association of American Universities

National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities

National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges