FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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STATEMENT ON “AFFORDABILITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION ACT”
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PRESIDENT, ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES

Rising tuitions are a serious concern for America’s families. Colleges and universities are working hard to control costs and provide the financial assistance students need to achieve the dream of a college education. We will work closely with Chairman McKeon on his ideas to empower students and families by providing them with better and more user-friendly information on college tuitions, costs, and financial aid. We are also encouraged by Mr. McKeon's proposed College Affordability Demonstration Program. It is a positive approach to helping colleges and universities explore innovative cost-control measures.

We are concerned that the plan goes beyond these constructive ideas to propose a complicated and bureaucratic price control regimen that hurts the very students we all seek to help. Under the plan, bureaucrats in Washington would set limits on prices and impose punitive sanctions on institutions that exceed those limits. These are government-set price controls, which would not serve our common purpose of helping students afford college but instead would reduce the quality and availability of higher education to our nation’s families.

We look forward to working with Mr. McKeon and the Congress to address the issue of college affordability in a way that puts students and families first and maintains the quality of the world’s best system of higher education.

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The Association of American Universities is an association of 60 U.S. and two Canadian research universities organized to develop and implement effective national and institutional policies supporting research and scholarship, graduate and professional education, undergraduate education, and public service in research universities.