AAU EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR COLLEGE COST REDUCTION ACT

Following is a statement by Robert M. Berdahl, President of the Association of American Universities (AAU), in support of H.R. 2669, the College Cost Reduction Act of 2007, which the House of Representatives is scheduled to consider today.

The Association of American Universities supports H.R. 2669, the College Cost Reduction Act of 2007. The bill would provide $17 billion in additional funding to increase the purchasing power of Pell Grant awards and enhance federal student aid programs. It represents an extraordinary commitment to helping students and their families realize the goal of a college education, and it would strengthen our nation’s workforce and competitiveness in the global economy.

We commend Chairman George Miller and members of the Education and Labor Committee for their efforts to make college more accessible for students across the country. We believe the college cost provisions of H.R. 2669 need to be refined, and we look forward to working with the committee to advance the bill in the legislative process.

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The Association of American Universities (www.aau.edu) is an association of 62 leading public and private research universities in the United States and Canada organized to develop and implement effective national and institutional policies supporting research and scholarship, graduate, professional, and undergraduate education, and public service in research universities. AAU universities award over one-half of all U.S. doctoral degrees and 55 percent of those in the sciences and engineering.