

National Headquarters
8415 Datapoint Drive, Suite 400
San Antonio, Texas 78229
210-692-3805 (voice) 210-692-0823 (fax)
www.hacu.net



HACU
H I S P A N I C
A S S O C I A T I O N
O F C O L L E G E S &
U N I V E R S I T I E S

May 7, 2013

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
Senate Judiciary Committee
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Senate Judiciary Committee
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy & Ranking Member Grassley:

On behalf of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), I want to express our appreciation for your leadership in moving to authorize S. 744, the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act during this legislative session. We are especially thankful for your inclusion of the DREAM Act and the STEM Fund in the manager's amendment.

As you move forward on S. 744, we urge you to preserve the current language which would create several programs to improve STEM education with the money raised from increased fees for H1B visas. While increasing the number of available H1B visas is important, it is critical that we invest in educating our own scientists and engineers. We applaud your inclusion of language that would do just that. If authorized, S. 744 would provide funding to help Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) create and improve their STEM programs. There are over 309 Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) with the capacity to teach and conduct research in the STEM areas. HSIs are poised to prepare a new contingent of STEM professionals for the nation's workforce.

We are also grateful to see that S. 744 includes one of the strongest DREAM Act versions to date. However, as you consider the bill in committee, we encourage you to vote in favor of several amendments that would make it even stronger and better suited to help Dreamers move forward: Senator Blumenthal's "Little DREAMER's amendment," Senator Hirono's amendment to ensure Dreamers have access to federal student aid and Senator Coons' amendment to ensure Dreamers are able to get professional licenses.

We look forward to your leadership in shepherding just and appropriate immigration legislation through the Senate for final passage into law. We stand ready to assist you and your colleagues in this important endeavor.

Sincerely,

Antonio R. Flores
President and CEO