



The University of North Carolina

112th Congress: Federal Policy Agenda

April 2011

Proposed for BOG Consideration

The policy agenda reflects the University's federal policy priorities. Funding priorities are in a separate document.

Access to Higher Education
<p>Higher Education Act and Reconciliation Implementation: Work with the U.S. Department of Education to implement changes resulting from Congressional action. Priorities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing access to higher education, including early awareness and outreach • Simplifying student aid systems • Encouraging college persistence & completion • College savings and financial education • Minimizing student indebtedness and emphasizing grant and work aid • Supporting the primacy of need-based aid
<p>Tax Incentives for Students, Families and Employees <i>Enhance</i> current student-centered tax benefits, including the qualified tuition expenses deduction and the Hope and Lifetime Learning tax credits. <i>Preserve</i> Section 117(d) qualified tuition reductions. <i>Extend</i> Section 127 employer – provided education assistance benefits. <i>Restore</i> Section 117(c) exclusion for qualified higher education expenses. <i>Extend</i> the student loan interest deduction.</p>
<p>Tax Consequences for The University <i>Affirm</i> current tax treatment of universities. <i>Prevent</i> inappropriate intrusions into university governance and finance. <i>Preserve</i> current treatment of university endowments. <i>Monitor, preserve, and/or improve</i> current treatment of tax-exempt bonds. <i>Ensure</i> balance between appropriate transparency and tax compliance burden. <i>Monitor</i> Unrelated Business Income Tax (UBIT) proposals that may affect universities.</p>
<p>Tax Incentives for Charitable Individuals <i>Extend</i> and expand the IRA charitable rollover. <i>Monitor</i> charitable giving proposals, including deductibility, gifting rules and valuation of gifts.</p>
<p>Veteran's Education Benefits: Monitor Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) implementation of the Post 9/11 GI Bill technical adjustments.</p>
<p>90-10 Rule Adjustment: Include GI Bill benefits and Federal Employee Tuition Assistance in Department of Education 90-10 rule calculations for institutions of higher education.</p>
<p>Broadband Access: Support legislation to expand broadband access to rural and underserved areas.</p>
<p>National College Advising Corps: Support legislation to authorize the National College Advising Corps, which seeks to partner low-income, first-generation, and underrepresented students with recent college graduates, who provide the advising and encouragement that students need to navigate college admissions.</p>
<p>Net Neutrality: Advocate for legislative language that prohibits anticompetitive discriminatory behavior, permits differential access pricing based on differential performance or quality of service and prohibits the imposition of new surcharges, separate from access charges, for transporting data over networks.</p>

Economic Transformation
<p>Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) Reauthorization: Work to reauthorize University Transportation Centers, promote collaborative research and development, fundamental and applied research, technology deployment, safety innovation deployment, local technical assistance, workforce, development, training and education and university transportation research.</p>
<p>Lumbee Recognition Act: Support legislative efforts for full federal recognition of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina (LTNC). Among other benefits, such recognition will give Tribal members access to additional federal educational funds, only available to members of federally-recognized tribal populations, which may be used at any of the UNC Constituent Institutions.</p>
<p>SBIR/STTR Reauthorization: Work for the long-term extension of the SBIR/STTR programs.</p>
Global Readiness
<p>Facilities and Administrative (F&A) expenditures for university-based research: Oppose efforts to arbitrarily cap cost reimbursement associated with federally-funded university-based research.</p>
<p>Cost Sharing: Work to minimize the number of federal research grants at NSF and other agencies that require cost-sharing. Cost sharing requirements in research grant solicitations often disadvantage universities and faculty members with small endowments or other research resources and discourage the best research proposals from being funded.</p>
<p>Open Access to Research: Support legislation or regulatory action to mandate public access to taxpayer-funded research at the NIH and other federal agencies without diminishing copyright protection currently accorded scholarly work.</p>
<p>DOD & DHS Research Contracts: Support efforts to reinforce DOD & DHS policy that basic research, unless classified, should not be burdened by clauses that restrict the dissemination and sharing of scientific information.</p>
<p>Export Controls Reform: Support efforts to revise and simplify the federal government ITAR and Export Controls rules to update and limit the technologies that are subject to ITAR restrictions and clearly protect technologies that are a threat to our national security.</p>
<p>Reform and Improve Grants.gov: Urge the federal government agencies and Congress to improve the grant and contract submission process known as "Grants.gov" to facilitate the grants and contracts process with the federal government.</p>
<p>Extend the R&D Tax Credit: Permanently extend the R&D credit to encourage commercial R&D investment that enables American companies to bring new and improved products and services to the market.</p>
<p>Patent Legislation: Support the development of a patent system that provides substantive review of patent applications consistent with current knowledge of technological developments and the cautious application of intellectual property law to products so as not to deter innovation in production.</p>
<p>Bayh-Dole Refinements: Support the role of universities in the innovation process and continuation of Bayh-Dole provisions that allow universities to own and license the results of federal research.</p>
<p>Copyright Infringement and the Value of P2P File Sharing: Support the development of innovative peer-to-peer systems in support of research, education, and the protection of intellectual property. The university supports the requirements of copyright law and will protect its network resources through measures including policy, education, and network management.</p>

Immigration Reform:

Create a new visa category for graduate students pursuing academic disciplines related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) and who choose to stay in the United States to work in a related field.

Preserve the dual intent provision for H-1B visa applicants.

Preserve access to the H-1B program for foreign medical residents and fellows.

Ensure that negative, unintended consequences are avoided in any changes to the green card system.

Permit H-1B dependent employer provisions to apply to all employers.

Streamline the Department of Labor process to enable greater information sharing regarding the status of PERM applications and to enable online employment posting to satisfy mandatory posting requirements.

Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act (CALEA): To ensure appropriate protections for privacy and innovation, monitor proposed changes affecting the ability of law enforcement to affect the design of Internet communication systems.

Combating Online Infringements and Counterfeits Act (COICA): Monitor proposed provisions affecting potential censorship and blocking of Internet sites.

Health Care

Global Public Health Workforce: Support legislation to establish a U.S. Global Health Service to coordinate and centralize U.S. efforts to assist in international areas of need, and provide fellowships and loan repayment in return for service overseas.

Health Professional Shortage Areas: Support legislation to help address workforce shortages in key health professionals including pharmacists, nurses, primary care physicians, dentists, and public health workers and allied health professionals, such as speech-language pathologists, audiologists, clinical laboratory scientists, medical imaging professionals, physical and occupational therapists, physician assistants, and related professionals (e.g., enhanced loan repayment and scholarship programs).

Tax-Exempt Status for Hospitals: Work with Congress and the hospital community to determine common definitions and reforms in such areas as community benefit, charitable care, charges to the uninsured and debt collection.

Telehealth: Support legislation that requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to encourage and facilitate the adoption of state reciprocity agreements for practitioner licensure. Such action should be in coordination with physicians, health care practitioners and patient advocates.

Student Health Insurance: Work with Congress and the Administration to ensure that student health insurance is cost-effective for students.

Veterinary/Public Health: Support legislation to fund expansion of veterinarians with public health training to increase the veterinary public health faculty.

One-Medicine: Support legislative and regulatory efforts to fully integrate animal and human health research and to acknowledge that advances in human and veterinary medicine are dependent on an overlapping collection of technologies and research discoveries.

Medicare and Medicaid Reform

Physician Payments: Support fair and adequate payment rates for physicians, and support efforts to tie reimbursement rates to reasonable measures of quality over the entire health care sector.

Increase GME/IME Caps for Residents: Increase federal funding and raise the statutory cap to enable training of additional resident physicians.

Recovery Audit Contractors ("RACs"): Support legislative efforts to reform the RAC program by expediting the appeal process, allowing providers to present underpayments, and by not requiring repayment until all appeals have been finalized.

Federal Medical Assistance Percentage ("FMAP"): Support an increase in FMAP to help offset dramatic cuts states may implement due to the weakened economy.

Medicare and Medicaid Reform, continued

Preserve the Medicare Bad Debt Moratorium and Maintain the Current Funding Level for Bad Debts.

Diagnosis Related Groups (DRG) Refinements: Work to ensure that the severity case mix reimbursement is adequate for teaching hospitals.

Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) Payments: Monitor prospective allocation changes.

Energy & Environment

Comprehensive Energy Policy: Support legislation that authorizes energy research opportunities, incentives for conservation and creation/extension of tax credits for producing electricity and fuel from renewable sources.

Agriculture Research and Food Safety: Work to expand the federal research, development and monitoring efforts to ensure our current national and global food supply is protected from natural pests as well as accidental or purposeful contamination and support policies that move our national and global food supply to a more sustainable and locally produced model.

Improving Public Education

No Child Left Behind Act (2002 authorization): Support provisions that enable regional, university-based professional development for teachers particularly those in high need, highly specialized content areas, enable innovative teacher recruitment strategies particularly for math, science and special education teachers, enable distance education using technology, and improve student outcomes while retaining state and local autonomy.

Education Sciences Reform Act Reauthorization (2004 authorization): Support provisions that encourage federal research on how learning and teaching can be improved; evaluating the effectiveness of educational approaches that incorporate research findings; providing statistical benchmarks for progress in education; and encouraging education decisions and policies that are based upon evidence.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Reauthorization (2004 authorization): Support provisions that enable improved training for special education teachers and other personnel and improved communication among all stakeholders, including representatives from higher education.