

THE COALITION TO PRESERVE
EMPLOYER PROVIDED
EDUCATION ASSISTANCE



October 27, 2017

The Honorable Jeff Flake
413 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto
204 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Flake and Cortez Masto,

On behalf of the Coalition to Preserve Employer-Provided Education Assistance (CPEPEA) we thank you for your leadership on S.2007, the Upward Mobility Enhancement Act. The Coalition supports your efforts to expand Sec. 127 of the Internal Revenue Code by increasing the annual assistance limit to \$11,500 and indexing that amount for inflation.

The CPEPEA is a broad-based coalition of groups representing business, labor and education dedicated to preserving and expanding Section 127. We believe that providing tax-free educational assistance is important for working students pursuing their educational goals, and an important tool for employers to attract the best employees, and position the U.S. economy to compete globally by building a skilled workforce.

As you know, Sec. 127 is a popular employer-provided benefit that enjoys bipartisan support and currently allows an employee to exclude from income only up to \$5,250 per year in assistance for any type of educational course at the undergraduate and graduate level. Increasing the yearly amount is long overdue and will better help working students with higher education expenses as well as enable employers to attract the best possible employees and build a skilled workforce.

Additionally, Sec. 127 plays a critical role in maintaining U.S. competitiveness by enabling employers to take an active role in training, development and investment in their most precious resource – their employees.

Thank you for your assistance in maintaining and strengthening this critical tax benefit.

Sincerely,

Members of the Section 127 Coalition

American Association of College Registrars
American Association of Community Colleges
American Association of State Colleges and Universities
American Association of University Professors
American Council on Education

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
American Federation of Teachers
American Society for Engineering Education
Asbury College
Associated General Contractors of America
Association of Public and Land Grant Universities
Association for Talent Development
Association of American Universities
Association of Community College Trustees
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities
Bellarmine University
Bellevue University
Brescia University
College & University Professional Association for Human Resources
College Bound
Cornell University
Corporate Voices for Working Families
Council for Adult and Experiential Learning
Council of Graduate Schools
Creighton University
Dobler College Consulting
Duke University
Edlink, LLC
Emory University
ERISA Industry Committee
Fresno Pacific University
Government Finance Officers Association
Guidance Gurus
Hartford Consortium for Higher Education
Harvard University
Hewlett-Packard
Hope College
Information Technology Industry Council
Institute of Electric and Electronics Engineers
International Public Management Association for Human Resources
John Carroll University
Lehigh University
Loyola University
Marquette University
Mercer University
MetroHartford Alliance
National Association of Colleges and Universities Business Officers
National Association of Graduate Professional Students
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
National Association of Independent Schools
National Council for Advanced Manufacturing

National Public Employer Labor Relations Association
National Tooling and Machining Association
Neumann University
New York University
North American Die Casting Association
Pace University
Pepperdine University
Precision Machined Products Association
Princeton University
Raytheon
Rochester Institute of Technology
Seton Hall University
Society for Human Resource Management
Starbucks Coffee Company
St. John's College
St. John's University
Syracuse University
TechAmerica
The George Washington University
The Precision Metalforming Association
Training Solutions, Inc.
United Auto Workers
United Technologies Corporation
University Continuing Education Association
University of Pennsylvania
University of Rochester
Vanderbilt University
Verizon
Webster University
Westminster College
Yale University
Zmarketeers, Inc