August 1, 2012

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC

Dear Representative:

**America’s workers need your support.** The Coalition to Preserve Employer Provided Education Assistance (CPEPEA) urges you to make tax-free education assistance a permanent part of the Internal Revenue Code. This provision, commonly known as Section 127, is set to expire on December 31, 2012.

**Section 127 is a vital way to keep America’s workforce competitive.** This provision allows an employee to exclude from income up to $5,250 per year in employer-provided tuition reimbursement. It also encourages employers to invest in their people, attract and retain talented workers, and compete more successfully in the global marketplace.

Nearly 20 percent of Section 127 recipients pursue science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) degrees, and more than 35 percent of the degrees are at the master’s level. By helping employees acquire new skills and knowledge, employers are preserving and strengthening American jobs.

Since it was enacted in 1978, Section 127 has become such an important benefit that Congress has renewed it nine times. As our knowledge economy has grown, so has the popularity of Section 127. Today, more than 1 million employees benefit from this incentive.

On behalf of the CPEPEA, a group of more than 80 organizations representing employers, labor, and higher education, we urge you to preserve tax-free education assistance under Section 127 as you take a vote on a tax extenders package.

Sincerely,

The Members of the Coalition to Preserve Employer Provided Education Assistance

American Association of Community Colleges
American Association of College Registrars
American Association of State Colleges and Universities
American Association of University Professors
American Council on Education
American Federation of Teachers
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
American Society for Engineering Education
American Society for Training & Development
Asbury College
Associated General Contractors of America
Association of American Universities
Association of Community College Trustees
Association of Jesuit Colleges
Bellarmine University
Brescia University
Bellevue 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
Updated January 2012
Duke University
Edlink, LLC
Emory University
Fresno Pacific University
The George Washington 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
Lake Forest Graduate School of Management
Loyola University
Marquette University
Mercer
MetroHartford Alliance
National Association of Colleges and Universities Business Officers
National Association of Graduate Professional Students
National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
National Association of Independent Schools
National Association of Manufacturers
National Council for Advanced Manufacturing
National Semiconductor
National Tooling and Machining Association
Neumann University
New York University
Pace University
Pepperdine University
The Precision Metalforming Association
Princeton University
Public Strategies Washington
Rochester Institute of Technology
Seton Hall University
Society for Human Resource Management
St. John’s College
St. John’s University
Syracuse University
TechAmerica
Texas Instruments
Training Solutions, Inc.
United Auto Workers
United Technologies Corporation
University Continuing Education Association
University of Michigan
University of Pennsylvania
University of Rochester
The University of Texas at Austin
Vanderbilt University
Verizon
Webster University
Westminster College
Yale University
U.S. Chamber of Commerce