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February 11, 2009

The Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Kennedy:

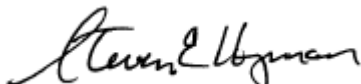
I am writing to thank you for your strong support of student aid and research funding in the economic recovery legislation now working its way through conference. As you know, the House and Senate bills each recognize in their own way that universities are a critical part of the short- and long-term solutions to our economic problems. We at Harvard believe strongly that the critical investments you and your colleagues have made in education and research will not only help bring us out of the current recession, but will improve our nation's human infrastructure and create a stronger, more innovative economy moving forward.

Harvard University strongly supports the student aid and research funding provided in the bills, and asks that you please support the higher of the House and Senate levels. While students at Harvard College enjoy full grant aid up to their level of need, the Pell and Perkins funding will help make postsecondary education more accessible for students across the country. Meanwhile, the important infusion of research money for the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy's Office of Science and other federal agencies will clear the clogged pipeline of peer-reviewed, promising new science, while dedicating funding to bright young researchers.

As you have a chance to weigh-in with conferees over the course of this week, I hope you will also consider discussing with them several troublesome non-funding provisions included in the Senate bill. Specifically, one amendment prevents museums from receiving stimulus funding and, if retained, would prohibit faculty associated with Harvard's many museums from conducting valuable research in a diverse set of areas. A second amendment would exclude graduates holding H-1B visas from working for recipients of Troubled Assets Relief Program funding. Now more than ever, our country needs to capture the talents of our brightest graduates to work to turn around these troubled industries.

I appreciate your hard work and leadership on the economic recovery package and thank you for your support of the key role of America's universities. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if I may in any way be helpful.

Sincerely,



Steven E. Hyman