

AACC

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

August 25, 1994

Dr. Augusta Souza Kappner
Assistant Secretary for Adult and
Vocational Education
400 Maryland Avenue S.W.
Room 4090, Switzer Building
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Gussie:

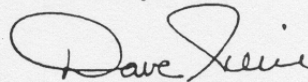
I am writing about the Administration's welfare reform bill (H.R. 4605/S.2224). Recently, the AACC Board of Directors adopted a Resolution on Welfare Reform that addresses the issue of limiting cash assistance to AFDC recipients. A copy of the resolution is enclosed for your information.

As you know, community colleges have a strong interest in the provision of educational opportunities for AFDC recipients. We support the "work-oriented" approach of the Administration's bill. However, we are concerned that limiting cash assistance to two years may inhibit an individual's ability to find lasting employment.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 80 percent of new jobs will require a college education by the year 2000. In addition, there is strong evidence that short-term training programs raise the income of workers only marginally, while completion of at least an associate degree has the potential of breaking the cycle of poverty for welfare recipients. Most national research shows that many college students, including traditional students who live at home, take at least three years to complete an associate degree and five years to complete a bachelors degree. In many cases, two years is an unrealistic timeframe to expect welfare recipients to accomplish meaningful education and training.

If you have any questions about the AACC Welfare Resolution, please do not hesitate to contact me or Ashley Giglio of my staff on ext. 220. We would be happy to assist you in any way.

Sincerely,



David Pierce
President

DP/ag

Enclosure

cc: Betty Duvall
Jacquelyn Belcher
Leila Gonzalez Sullivan
Pamila Fisher