

Senator Judith Zaffirini  
Chair



Senator Rip Aberitt  
Senator Dan Patrick  
Senator Royce West  
Senator Tommy Williams

## Senate Higher Education Subcommittee

August 23, 2007

Charles Zucker, PhD  
Executive Director  
Texas Faculty Association  
316 West 12th St.  
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Dr. Zucker:

Thank you for your letter relating to the appropriation for employee group insurance for community colleges. Your taking the time to share your perspective is appreciated greatly, especially because I agree with it.

On August 14 I convened a hearing of the Senate Higher Education Subcommittee. After hearing testimony from experts and from representatives from the Governor's Office, community college districts, and local businesses and industries, I am optimistic that we will restore funding for group health insurance to community colleges and avoid unwanted tax hikes, tuition increases, or reduced services.

Though details regarding how to restore the funding will be negotiated, strong consensus emerged from the testimony regarding the importance of providing a short-term solution to the problem caused by the veto while striving toward resolving long-term funding issues. Count on me to champion a solution that is fair, equitable, and responsive.

Feel free to call upon me or my staff whenever we can be of assistance. May God bless you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judith Zaffirini".

Judith Zaffirini

JZ/wve