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**EDUCATION & LABOR COMMITTEE**

**Congressman George Miller, Chairman**

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Press Office, 202-226-0853

**Chairman Hinojosa Statement at Subcommittee Hearing on  
“Examining GAO’s Findings on Efforts to Improve Oversight  
of Low Income and Minority Serving Institutions”**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – *Below are the prepared remarks of U.S. Rep. Rubén Hinojosa (D-TX), chairman of the House Subcommittee on Higher Education, Lifelong Learning and Competitiveness, for a subcommittee hearing on the “Examining GAO’s Findings on Efforts to Improve Oversight of Low Income and Minority Serving Institutions”*

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I would like to welcome my colleagues, on both sides of the aisle, to this important hearing on “Examining GAO’s Findings on Efforts to Improve Oversight of Low-Income and Minority Serving Institutions.”

I want to recognize some of our colleagues on the Education and Labor Committee for their leadership in advancing the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act (SAFRA), enacted as part the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010.

Since last fall, I have had the pleasure of working closely with Representatives Bobby Scott, Raúl Grijalva, Dale Kildee, David Wu as well as other members of the congressional tri-caucus to ensure that SAFRA included targeted funding for Title III and Title V institutions.

I want to thank the GAO for the release of their report: “Examining GAO’s Findings on Efforts to Improve Oversight of Low-Income and Minority Serving Institutions.”

As many of you know, I have fought vigorously to increase federal resources to MSI’s throughout my tenure in congress.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), Alaska Native-Serving Institutions or Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions, Predominantly Black institutions, Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions and Native American-Serving Nontribal Institutions are an invaluable segment of our nation’s higher education system.

Each year, they ensure access and affordability to millions of minority and low-income students and workers.

Over the past fifteen years or so, we have made significant strides in addressing the funding gap for these institutions. On March 30th, President Obama signed the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, providing \$2.55 billion for Title III and Title V institutions. This is the largest investment ever in HBCUs and MSIs.

At this time, I wish to acknowledge HBCUs for the tremendous job they have done in educating a large proportion of our nation's African-American students.

HBCUs prepare exceptional leaders in the fields of medicine, law, science, technology, engineering, mathematics, teaching, and other areas where minority students continue to be underrepresented.

According to "The State of America's Black Colleges" HBCUs graduate 40 percent of all African-American students receiving a four-year STEM degree and 50 percent of African-American teachers.

HBCUs play an extremely vital role in our nation's higher education system and serve as role models for other institutions of higher learning.

We have also made substantial progress in supporting and developing the capacity of Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs). According to Excelencia in Education, a non-profit organization which promotes success for Latinos in higher education, HSIs enroll approximately half of all Latino undergraduates in the United States.

In 1995, HSIs received an appropriation of just \$12 million; they were one of a number of institutions receiving funding under Title III. In 1998, we were successful in creating a separate title for HSIs to underscore the importance of these institutions to our nation's growing Latino community.

In FY 2010, the developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions program received an appropriation of \$117 million, and the promoting post-baccalaureate opportunities, our newly created graduate program for HSIs, received appropriations of \$22 million.

I am very proud of what our committee has been able to accomplish for all of our institutions. As we build on our successes and set goals for the next decade, it is imperative that we have stronger mechanisms to monitor these federal programs. We must have increased accountability and work with the U.S. Department of Education to improve annual monitoring and reporting requirements. Our students deserve the very best, and our institutions must provide exemplary leadership in managing these resources effectively.

To achieve President Obama's goal of leading the world in college graduates by 2020, we must ensure that MSIs are doing their part to increase persistence, retention, and completion rates for all students.

Based on the findings of the GAO report, four institutions used grant funds improperly and that is a serious concern for me.

The GAO report is a great starting point for today's hearing, and I hope that we can have a robust discussion and learn more about these issues from our distinguished witnesses.

Thank you, I now yield to Ranking Member Guthrie.

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