

September 4, 2007

The Honorable Rob McKenna  
Office of the Attorney General  
PO Box 40100  
Olympia, WA 98504-0100

Dear Mr. McKenna,

We have recently become aware of the potential impact the 2007 bill on marketing of estate distribution documents (HB 1114) could have on our colleges.

As you know, our members, Washington's 10 private non-profit liberal arts-based colleges and universities, are great educational partners in the state. We confer 25 percent of the baccalaureate and higher degrees earned in the state for less than two percent of the state's higher education budget. In part we are able to do this because of strong financial support from alumni and other generous donors.

We are concerned that the limits placed on planned giving fundraising in the new law will make it more difficult for our colleges to continue the traditional fundraising efforts that are so essential to our ability to provide a high-quality education to our students.

We applaud the effort to crack down on unscrupulous fundraisers, but are concerned that the language of the statute may have some unintended consequences for institutions of higher education and other legitimate non-profit fundraisers. We write to request your guidance in interpreting this new law and the impact, if any, it will have on our regionally accredited colleges' efforts to introduce new donors to the charitable opportunities available in financial and estate planning.

Thank you for your help understanding our opportunities and limitations in these areas.

Sincerely,

Violet A. Boyer  
President and CEO

cc: Mike Bigelow