



March 31, 2010

The Honorable Jeff Atwater
The Florida Senate
409 Capitol
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senate President Atwater:

The Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce fully supports The Art Institutes of Jacksonville, Tampa and Miami, and South University in Tampa and West Palm Beach in their request for maintained funding of the ABLE grant for Florida students.

The Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce's legislative agenda was created this year with the primary focus of job creation, retention, and expansion. Toward that end, the continued funding of the ABLE grant fulfills that mission by creating a highly skilled workforce in high growth industries such as Health Care, Nursing, Education, and Hospitality.

The Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce recognizes the state's current financial situation and understands that there is a limited amount of funding but respectfully asks that access to higher education remain a priority during this legislative session. If the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce can be of any assistance to you or your staff, please feel free to contact us.

Thank you for all that you do for the communities across the state of Florida.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chuck Sykes".

Chuck Sykes, Chair
(*Sykes Enterprises, Inc.*)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Rohrlack".

Robert J. Rohrlack, Jr., CEcD
President and CEO

CC: House Speaker Cretul, Hillsborough County Legislative Delegation