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National Association of College & University Business Officers

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November 3, 1977

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The Honorable Joseph A. Califano, Jr.
Secretary
The Department of Health, Education and Welfare
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I have been asked by the members of the Committee on Governmental Relations (NACUBO) to advise the heads of the various major Government R&D agencies of our interest in a bill introduced earlier this year by Representative Thornton and 13 other Congressmen which would standardize Government patent policy towards more equitable allocation of rights in inventions made under support of Federal grants and contracts.

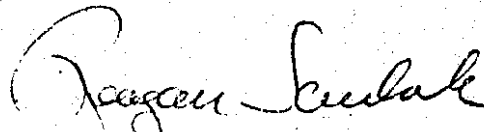
We are concerned that the policies of many agencies do not provide sufficient economic incentives to attract private investment in inventions made under government grants and contracts. Without such incentives, inventions may go underdeveloped giving the United States and its citizens a limited pay-off for the substantial investment in research and development.

It is our understanding that the present Administration is in the process of formulating a position on the bill and that, as is usual in such cases, the Office of Management and Budget has sought the views of the various agencies.

If you have not already commented, we request your consideration of H.R. 8596. We believe it provides a Congressional forum for review of the needs of the technology transfer process.

We hope that your Department, which is the major Government sponsor of university research, will support this bill.

Sincerely,


Reagan Scurlock

bcc: Patents