



January 25, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Room H-305, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Room H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Room S-221, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Room S-230, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McCarthy, Majority Leader Schumer, and Minority Leader McConnell:

The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) approved by Congress in late December provided just under \$23 billion for postsecondary students and institutions. While this will deliver some help to stabilize the devastating impact the pandemic has had on higher education, at least \$97 billion in critical needs has been left unaddressed. As you assemble the next pandemic relief measure, we request that you include at least this amount for students and institutions. We ask that funds be distributed to institutions using the same allocation formula as CRRSAA, which equally weights full-time equivalent and total headcount of students; that all public and private nonprofit institutions of higher education are eligible to receive funds; and that special consideration is given to the needs of Historically Black Colleges and Universities and other Minority Serving Institutions.

Colleges and universities have been overwhelmed by the pandemic, as the costs of educating students soared while revenues precipitously declined. Over 3,200 colleges and universities are located nationwide, in every congressional district, employing approximately 3.5 million people in communities large and small, rural, urban and suburban. As students and institutions struggle to recover, more than half a million jobs have already been lost in the higher education sector. Countless more have been lost in the communities surrounding campuses, which often depend on these institutions for the health of their local economy.

Beyond the massive economic impact colleges and universities have on their communities, institutions are stepping forward as testing, quarantine, and vaccination centers. We are training the medical and frontline staff combating the pandemic, and our researchers are developing the vaccines needed to contain it.

Pandemic Relief  
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Any meaningful effort to address the pandemic and the economic dislocation it has caused will require the participation of colleges and universities, and we urge you to ensure they have the resources they need to accomplish this. For all these reasons, we strongly urge you to provide at least \$97 billion in support to postsecondary students and institutions in any relief bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Mitchell". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Ted Mitchell  
President

On behalf of:

American Association of Community Colleges  
American Association of State Colleges and Universities  
American Council on Education  
Association of American Universities  
Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities  
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities  
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities  
Council for Christian Colleges & Universities  
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities  
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators