



February 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

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy:

As the House of Representatives moves to consider the reconciliation package on the floor, we write on behalf of America's colleges and universities to express our strong support for this measure.

We are particularly appreciative that nearly \$40 billion is included in the legislation for students and institutions. While this amount falls short of our most recent estimate of at least \$97 billion in student and institutional needs (and is far less than the \$183 billion identified in a recent independent estimate<sup>1</sup>) it represents the largest federal effort so far to address the crippling impact of the pandemic on colleges and universities.

This legislation also continues to provide additional dedicated support to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) and other Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs) to address the disproportionate effect of the pandemic on those institutions and their students. This is a critical step in the effort to tackle historic funding inequities for these schools, a gap only exacerbated by the pandemic.

In addition, the bill contains a provision amending the current 90/10 rule to close an existing loophole that didn't categorize federal programs for active duty military and veterans' education benefits as federal funding. We have long supported closing this loophole in order to ensure that the rule works as intended.

Finally, earlier versions of the bill included specific language providing institutions the sole authority to determine student eligibility for emergency aid. We understand that the language raised technical issues related to the reconciliation process and had to be removed, but we appreciate the clear expression of support for those students. We strongly believe that the Department of Education already has sufficient authority to ensure that all students harmed by the pandemic are able to receive the help they need.

We urge the House to pass this measure as quickly as possible so that needed relief funds reach students and institutions in a timely manner. Thank you again for your support.

---

<sup>1</sup> See *How to Fight COVID's Financial Crush* (<https://www.chronicle.com/article/how-to-fight-covids-financial-crush>)

Sincerely,



Ted Mitchell  
President

On behalf of:

Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges  
ACPA-College Student Educators International  
ACT  
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education  
American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers  
American Association of Community Colleges  
American Association of State Colleges and Universities  
American Association of the Colleges of Nursing  
American College Health Association  
American Council on Education  
American Indian Higher Education Consortium  
APPA, "Leadership in Educational Facilities"  
Association of American Colleges and Universities  
Association of American Universities  
Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities  
Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges  
Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in Pennsylvania  
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities  
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities  
Association of Research Libraries  
Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities  
Common App  
Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges  
Council for Advancement and Support of Education  
Council for Christian Colleges & Universities  
Council for Higher Education Accreditation  
Council for Opportunity in Education  
Council of Graduate Schools  
Council of Independent Colleges  
EDUCAUSE  
ETS  
Higher Education Loan Coalition  
Higher Learning Commission  
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities

International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators  
Middle States Commission on Higher Education  
NAFSA: Association of International Educators  
NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education  
National Association of College and University Business Officers  
National Association of Colleges and Employers  
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities  
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators  
National Collegiate Athletic Association  
National Council for Community and Education Partnerships  
National Council of University Research Administrators  
New England Commission of Higher Education  
Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities  
Phi Beta Kappa Society  
SACSCOC  
State Higher Education Executive Officers Association  
UPCEA  
WASC Senior College & University Commission