

October 27, 2021

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

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

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Schumer:

We, the undersigned organizations, write to urge you to preserve critical investments in college affordability and college completion in the final Build Back Better package.

In the wake of the pandemic, the nation's higher education system is at a crossroads. A college degree remains a key driver of economic mobility, but many students cannot afford to earn a degree without taking on burdensome debt — and too many students who start college don't complete a degree at all.

By making college more affordable; investing in evidence-based completion strategies that help more students get across the graduation stage; and supporting institutions that serve underrepresented students such as Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Tribal Colleges and Universities, as well as Hispanic-serving Institutions, Predominantly Black Institutions, and Asian American, Native American, and Pacific Islander minority-serving institutions, lawmakers can advance a strong recovery, close longstanding racial and economic disparities in college access and degree attainment, and ultimately ensure long-term prosperity and competitiveness for the United States.

Simply put, we cannot build back better without investing in our nation's postsecondary students and institutions. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

ACPA-College Student Educators International
ACT
Alliance for Youth Action
America Forward
American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers
American Association of Community Colleges
American Association of State Colleges and Universities
American Association of University Professors
American Association of University Women (AAUW)
American College Health Association
American Council on Education

American Dental Education Association
American Federation of Teachers
American Indian Higher Education Consortium
APIA Scholars
APPA, “Leadership in Educational Facilities”
Association of American Colleges and Universities
Association of American Universities
Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities
Association of Community College Trustees
Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Association of Research Libraries
Association of Young Americans (AYA)
Campaign for College Opportunity
Center for American Progress
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities (CUMU)
College Success Foundation
Common App
Consumer Action
Council for Opportunity in Education
Council for Advancement and Support of Education
Council for Christian Colleges & Universities
Council for Higher Education Accreditation
Council of Graduate Schools
Council of Independent Colleges
Denise Smith, The Century Foundation
Education Forward Arizona
Education Reform Now
EDUCAUSE
Excelencia in Education
Generation Progress
Higher Learning Advocates
Institute for Higher Education Policy
Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR)
NAFSA: Association of International Educators
NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education
National Association for College Admission Counseling
National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO)
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

Higher Education Coalition Reconciliation Letter
October 27, 2021

National College Attainment Network
National Consumer Law Center (on behalf of its low-income clients)
National Education Association
New America Higher Education Program
Ohio Student Association
Phi Beta Kappa Society
Public Higher Education Network of Massachusetts (PHENOM)
Results for America
Rise
Southern California College Access Network
State Higher Education Executive Officers Association
Student Debt Crisis Center (SDCC)
The Education Trust
The Institute for College Access & Success (TICAS)
Third Way
TMCF
uAspire
UnidosUS
UPCEA
Young Invincibles