



October 20, 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 write on behalf of the undersigned organizations who collectively represent thousands of colleges and universities, and millions of educators, professionals and students to urge you to retain the level of higher education funding and key tax provisions provided in the Build Back Better Act passed by the House Budget Committee. While organizations may have different views on the array of programs included in the legislation, all strongly believe retaining robust overall higher education funding and other support is critical to accomplish shared priorities.

Higher education must be included in legislation intended to improve our nation's human infrastructure. Postsecondary education is inextricably linked to economic opportunity and prosperity. The pandemic greatly widened the divide between those with postsecondary skills and education and those without. Federal investment in student aid and higher education are a proven pathway to economic mobility and it is essential to repairing the economic damage done by the pandemic and improving the lives of all Americans.

This is a matter not just of economic opportunity, but of equality of opportunity. Significant racial disparities in higher education have been further exacerbated by the pandemic, and Congress should take this opportunity to meaningfully address it. At a time when decades of progress in this area are at risk, failure to include funding for financial aid programs and affordability efforts at institutions, including 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 will have a disproportionately negative impact on millions of students of color.

For these reasons, we urge you to retain student aid and higher education funding and tax policies at the levels provided in the Build Back Better Act as approved by the House Budget Committee.

Sincerely,



Ted Mitchell
President

On behalf of:

AccessLex Institute
Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges
Achieving the Dream
ACPA-College Student Educators International
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 University Professors
American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges
American Council on Education
American Dental Education Association
American Indian Higher Education Consortium
APPA, "Leadership in Educational Facilities"
Association of Advanced Rabbinical and Talmudic Schools
Association of American Universities
Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities
Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges
Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities
Association of Independent Colleges & Universities in Massachusetts
Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in Pennsylvania
Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Ohio
Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Rhode Island
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Association of Research Libraries
Association of Schools Advancing Health Professions
Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities
Common App
Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges
Council for Higher Education Accreditation
Council for Opportunity in Education
Council of Independent Colleges
Council on Social Work Education
EDUCAUSE
EnglishUSA

Great Lakes Colleges Association
Higher Education Consultants Association
Higher Education Loan Coalition
Higher Learning Commission
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities
Independent Colleges of Indiana
Maryland Independent College and University Association
Middle States Commission on Higher Education
NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education
National Association for College Admission Counseling
National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education
National Association of College and University Business Officers
National Association of College Stores
National Association of Colleges and Employers
National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
NCICU
New England Commission of Higher Education
New Hampshire College and University Council
Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities
Phi Beta Kappa Society
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges
State Higher Education Executive Officers Association
Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Assoc.
TMCF
UPCEA
WASC Senior College and University Commission
Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities