



September 25, 2020

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

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

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy,

Throughout the summer and into the fall as Congress discussed the size and scope of additional pandemic relief, we appreciated that every legislative proposal, from both parties and in both chambers, included funding for students and higher education institutions. The HEROES Act, which passed your chamber in May, contained \$37 billion in additional support, and other legislation has proposed as much as \$132 billion.

As our country's colleges and universities enter the new academic year, it has become increasingly clear that earlier estimates of both the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the costs associated with resuming classes were far lower than what institutions and students are now experiencing. Many campuses have opened and remain open successfully. Others have been forced to close temporarily before reopening, and still others have shifted to fully remote instruction. Regardless of an institution's status, costs have rapidly multiplied as colleges and universities adapt to the particular circumstances they're facing.

Previously, our associations calculated that the financial impact of the pandemic on students and institutions would total at least \$120 billion. Now, roughly one month into the fall semester, our members are reporting that their revenue losses and new costs have already greatly exceeded this amount, especially in areas such as testing, contact tracing, quarantine, treatment, and learning technology. For their part, many of our students and their families are struggling with reduced incomes and job losses, resulting in the need for billions of dollars in increased student aid.

Given this new information, we write to request that any supplemental funding bill include at least \$120 billion for higher education in order to partially mitigate the challenges that students and institutions are facing. While we understand that any supplemental spending bill must balance many important needs, support for colleges and universities addresses all of the core problems our country is facing. Our institutions employ nearly 4 million faculty and staff. College campuses are the economic hubs of their regions, generating an estimated \$650 billion in revenues annually, along with tens of billions of dollars more in associated economic activity. Our schools train the doctors, nurses, and other frontline workers needed to address this unprecedented health crisis,

and perform the research necessary to produce the urgently needed vaccines and treatments. Finally, our schools educate 26 million students, preparing them to compete and succeed in an increasingly difficult economy, and fueling the path towards a recovery.

We appreciate the efforts Congress has undertaken to address the ongoing crisis facing students and institutions. We look forward to working with you and your members to ensure that any COVID-19 supplemental bill provides sufficient resources.

Sincerely,



Ted Mitchell
President

On behalf of:

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
Association of Community College Trustees
American Association of State Colleges and Universities
American Council on Education
American Dental Education Association
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 Jesuit Colleges and Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Association of Research Libraries
Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities
College and University Professional Association for Human Resources
Common App
Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area
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
Council on Social Work Education
EDUCAUSE
ETS
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities
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
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 Association of System Heads
National Collegiate Athletic Association
Phi Beta Kappa Society
State Higher Education Executive Officers Association
UPCEA