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Brandeis University
Brown University

California Institute of Technology
Carnegie Mellon University

Case Western Reserve University
Columbia University

Cornell University
Dartmouth College

Duke University
Emory University

Georgia Institute of Technology
Harvard University

Indiana University

Iowa State University

The Johns Hopkins University

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

McGill University

Michigan State University

New York University

Northwestern University

The Ohio State University

The Pennsylvania State University

Princeton University

Purdue University

Rice University

Rutgers University – New Brunswick

Stanford University

Stony Brook University –

State University of New York

Texas A&M University

Tulane University

University at Buffalo –

State University of New York

The University of Arizona

University of California, Berkeley

University of California, Davis

University of California, Irvine

University of California, Los Angeles

University of California, San Diego

University of California, Santa Barbara

University of California, Santa Cruz

The University of Chicago

University of Colorado Boulder

University of Florida

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

The University of Iowa

The University of Kansas

University of Maryland, College Park

University of Michigan

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

University of Missouri, Columbia

The University of North Carolina at

Chapel Hill

University of Oregon

University of Pennsylvania

University of Pittsburgh

University of Rochester

University of Southern California

The University of Texas at Austin

University of Toronto

The University of Utah

University of Virginia

University of Washington

The University of Wisconsin - Madison

Vanderbilt University

Washington University in St. Louis

Yale University

May 4, 2020

Dear Members of the 116th Congress,

Like all other American institutions, America's leading research universities are suffering unprecedented financial strain and uncertainty due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The nurses, doctors, scientists, faculty, students, and researchers at our institutions are working night and day to treat the ill; develop new tests, treatments, cures, and vaccines; and gather and disseminate critical information and data for use by the government and the public. The pandemic has caused significant and substantial strain on research universities and hospitals, even as these same institutions fight on the front lines of this pandemic. Our nation's ability to fight this pandemic is directly tied to the ability of our institutions, staff, and students to stay in the fight.

Federal support for our research universities and students at this moment is vital to our nation's success both now and in the future. AAU estimates that the collective near-term financial impact of the pandemic to our 63 U.S. member universities is over \$8 billion. This figure will continue to grow if institutions are unable to resume close to normal on-campus operations this fall. AAU members are among the largest, if not the largest, employers in their cities and states, and the harmful economic consequences of the pandemic to these institutions is felt beyond their campuses. Americans from all walks of life are dependent on us for their wellbeing, from doctors and nurses to facility and food service professionals. I urge your consideration of [our recommendations](#) – developed with other university and research organizations – for significant relief for students, the research workforce, and the ability of research universities and hospitals to fight the pandemic and serve national interests.

Since the end of World War II, America's leading research universities have helped make our nation the world's leader in scientific and medical innovation. From the polio vaccine to the smartphone, our universities have made possible the world's greatest leaps in medicine and science in the last few decades. Across the globe, other nations envy the partnership that our institutions have with our government and private sector. Gifted students from around the world, across the United States, and from every walk of life and income level come to our universities to learn and grow into the medical professionals, engineers, innovators, and other leaders that our nation needs.

We thank you for your consideration our recommendations.

Sincerely,

Mary Sue Coleman, President