



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