

ASSOCIATION of  
JESUIT COLLEGES  
& UNIVERSITIES  
AJCU

June 15, 2022

Senator Jack Reed  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Lisa Murkowski  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Reed and Senator Murkowski:

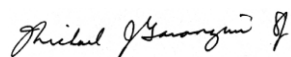
On behalf of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities' (AJCU) 27 U.S. member institutions, I would like to express my support for S.4271, The Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act Reauthorization, particularly for the Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services on Campus program.

Your legislation extends the authorization for a critically important mental health program and improves it in several significant ways. Increasing the authorization level to \$12 million will ensure more institutions can receive these grants and serve more students on college campuses across the country. In addition, the legislation expands the use of funds to make needed changes to the statute, better reflecting current needs.

As you know, the COVID-19 pandemic has negatively impacted college students' mental health by increasing anxiety and depression. The presidents of Jesuit colleges and universities have indicated that mental health is a top priority, and they are not alone. According to a 2021 American Council on Education survey, seventy-five percent of college presidents indicated mental health was a critical concern. Data from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) show that 75 percent of 18- 24-year-olds said they had experienced mental health symptoms in June 2020. We know that unaddressed mental health problems can lead to significant consequences, including "reducing quality of life, academic achievement, physical health, and satisfaction with the college experience, and negatively impacting relationships with friends and family members" ([Suicide Prevention Research Center](#)).

If you have any questions or need additional information from our institutions, please contact Jenny Smulson, Vice President for Government Relations at [jmulson@ajcunet.edu](mailto:jmulson@ajcunet.edu). We appreciate your leadership on this issue and other issues of significant importance to higher education.

Sincerely,



Rev. Michael J. Garanzini, S.J.  
President  
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities

BOSTON COLLEGE, MA  
CANISIUS COLLEGE, NY  
COLLEGE OF THE HOLY CROSS, MA  
CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY, NE  
FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY, CT  
FORDHAM UNIVERSITY, NY  
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY, DC  
GONZAGA UNIVERSITY, WA  
JOHN CARROLL UNIVERSITY, OH  
LE MOYNE COLLEGE, NY  
LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY, CA  
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO, IL  
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY MARYLAND, MD  
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY NEW ORLEANS, LA  
MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY, WI  
REGIS UNIVERSITY, CO  
ROCKHURST UNIVERSITY, MO  
SAINT JOSEPH'S UNIVERSITY, PA  
SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY, MO  
SAINT PETER'S UNIVERSITY, NJ  
SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY, CA  
SEATTLE UNIVERSITY, WA  
SPRING HILL COLLEGE, AL  
UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT MERCY, MI  
UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO, CA  
UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON, PA  
XAVIER UNIVERSITY, OH