

July 10, 2020

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Lowey and Ranking Member Granger,

On behalf of the undersigned higher education associations, I am writing to express our support for the Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill that will be marked up in your committee on Monday.

The bill provides a \$150 increase to the maximum Pell award, helping the primary student aid program keep pace with inflation. In addition, the bill provides \$5 billion in new emergency funding (and \$5.5 billion in new funding overall) for critical medical research at the National Institutes of Health. While we had asked for greater increases for the student aid and biomedical research programs funded in this bill, we understand how little additional funding was available under the budget caps, and appreciate the committee's efforts to ensure all programs saw some increase this year.

Given these limitations, it becomes all the more urgent for Congress to provide additional supplemental funding before the August recess. We have previously shared with Congress estimates of \$46.6 billion in new student financial need and institutional losses resulting from the pandemic, as well as nearly \$74 billion in costs institutions are incurring that are unique to reopening safely in the fall. Coupled with the massive cuts in state support that have already been, or soon will be, announced, federal support is necessary to minimize the harm students, educators, and institutions are facing. The House has already proposed providing \$37 billion in support for higher education through the HEROES Act, and we urge you to work with your Senate colleagues to ensure a sufficient level of support is provided in any supplemental bill.

Finally, the bill includes a number of provisions that we believe are important and worthy of support. We are particularly grateful for language that would bar the Department of Education (Department) from implementing their recently finalized Title IX regulations. Setting aside the serious substantive issues we have with the regulation, the fact that the Department is mandating that institutions implement the most complicated and controversial regulation in the agency's history on an expedited timeframe in the middle of a pandemic that has forced the physical closure of campuses demonstrates a fundamental disregard for the best interests of students and institutions.

Beyond this issue, the bill also includes language restoring the 85/15 rule and amending it to appropriately account for all federal funding, including GI bill funding; expands Pell Grant eligibility for incarcerated individuals; and limits the ability of agencies to penalize institutions for conducting certain types of scientific research. We appreciate the Subcommittee's inclusion of these provisions, and support their inclusion in any final funding bill.

Thank you for your continued support of American higher education, and we ask that you and your members advance this bill when it comes before the full committee.

Sincerely,



Ted Mitchell
President

On behalf of:

ACPA-College Student Educators International
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
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 College Health Association
American Council on Education
American Indian Higher Education Consortium
APPA, Leadership in Educational Facilities
Association of American Universities
Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities
Association of Community College Trustees
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
Common App
Council for Advancement and Support of Education
Council for Opportunity in Education
EDUCAUSE
Higher Education Loan Coalition
NAFSA: Association of International Educators
NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education
National Association for College Admission Counseling
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

National Collegiate Athletic Association
State Higher Education Executive Officers Association
TMCF