



February 14, 2022

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

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

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Room S-221, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Room S-230, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Leader Schumer and Leader McConnell:

After working and consulting with UNCF, the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, and the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, the American Council on Education and the undersigned associations and organizations write to seek your assistance on an urgent matter of national importance.

In recent weeks, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) have been subjected to repeated, systematic threats to their students and campuses. These acts of terror deliberately strike at institutions that have a unique significance to Black Americans and to American higher education. HBCUs are targeted precisely because they serve as powerful symbols of Black Americans' strength and achievement. All of America's colleges and universities pledge to do everything we can to support and enhance these incredible institutions.

Regrettably, threats like this are nothing new for HBCUs and their communities. They have faced, and faced down, too many attacks over time, are rightfully proud of their legacy, and will not be deterred by more threats of violence.

Just because attacks like these recent bomb threats are not new does not mean we must not act. We appreciate that the FBI and other law enforcement agencies are actively investigating these threats. But we also need action from Congress in this moment.

First, these crimes must be fully and aggressively investigated, and the offenders prosecuted in accordance with the grievous harm they have caused. We urge you to work with your congressional colleagues and the Administration to ensure that is the case.

Second, we ask you to immediately pass H.Con.Res. 70 to put Congress on record on this matter of national importance.

Finally, the egregious nature of these crimes, their scope and scale, and the racist motivations behind them deserve specific attention. Congress has both the unique authority and responsibility to address this. For this reason, we request you hold congressional hearings on an expedited basis, with a focus on the persistent issues underlying these crimes and how to prevent future occurrences.

We reiterate that for too many of our students and colleagues, the threats against HBCUs across the country are a reminder of the reality of racial violence and inequities that are present every day. Congress can take meaningful action to address the very real harm that has been caused. We urge you to do so, and quickly.

Sincerely,



Ted Mitchell
President

On behalf of:

Achieving the Dream
ACPA-College Student Educators International
ACT
American Association of Colleges and Universities
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
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 Dental Education Association
American Federation of Teachers
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
Center for American Progress
Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities
College Board
Common App

Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area
Council for Advancement and Support of Education
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
Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce
Georgia Budget and Policy Institute
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities
Institution for Higher Education Policy
KIPP Public Schools
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 Diversity Officers in Higher Education
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
National Association of System Heads
National Collegiate Athletic Association
National Council of University Research Administrators
National Education Association
New America Higher Education Program
Phi Beta Kappa Society
SACSCOC
Silicon Valley Leadership Group
State Higher Education Executive Officers Association
The Education Trust
The Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice
The Institute for College Access & Success
Third Way
Thurgood Marshall College Fund
UNCF
Yes We Must Coalition

Cc: The Honorable Patty Murray
The Honorable Richard Burr
The Honorable Bobby Scott
The Honorable Virginia Foxx
The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
The Honorable Jim Jordan
The Honorable Dick Durbin
The Honorable Chuck Grassley