



July 28, 2026

The Honorable Bill Cassidy
Chairman
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
United States Senate
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Cassidy:

The American Council on Education, which represents more than 1,600 colleges, universities, and related organizations, offers this letter of support for S. 2511, the College Transparency Act. We believe this legislation will significantly enhance data collection efforts on the student level, which will provide invaluable information to policymakers and stakeholders. These new data have the potential to help unlock innovative solutions to persistent challenges related to student enrollment, completion, and employment rates.

The College Transparency Act would allow the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) to create a national postsecondary student-level data system that would allow researchers, policymakers, students, and institutions to access more comprehensive information on individual student enrollment, completion, costs, financial aid, and workforce outcomes while repealing the current federal ban on student-level data collection. This bill would establish an advisory committee that is representative of the entire higher education community, including representatives from institutions of higher education, state higher education agencies, organizations representing students, and other groups, to advise NCES on how to develop this new data system. The removal of prohibitions on data collection coupled with structural stakeholder engagement will produce a more impactful data collection effort.

As we have stated in the past, we believe this bill would yield positive results for policymakers and stakeholders, including institutions, taxpayers, and students. The CTA would help to aggregate individual-level data into a useful tool allowing others to more easily comprehend important trends that would work to improve the postsecondary experience for students, families, and institutions of higher education. This data could also be used to improve policy proposals by providing accurate data to better understand student outcomes and institutional performance.

We commend you and the cosponsors for your continuous bipartisan work on this important issue, and we look forward to continuing to work on this issue with you moving forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Mitchell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ted" being more prominent than the last name "Mitchell".

Ted Mitchell
President
American Council on Education

Cc:

The Honorable Bernie Sanders, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor,
and Pensions