

December 5, 2019

Senator Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer,

On behalf of the organizations listed below, we write to express our strong support for the bipartisan amendment offered to H.R. 2486, the FUTURE Act. This amendment offers practical solutions to critical issues facing students and institutions, and is fully offset.

The amendment addresses several important issues. First, it would restore and make permanent critical funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, Tribal Colleges and Universities and other Minority Serving Institutions that had expired at the end of September, allowing those institutions to strengthen STEM education programs and build institutional capacity to better serve students.

In addition, the amendment would make significant improvements to the federal student aid system, by simplifying and streamlining the processes for applying for student aid and repaying student loans. The changes proposed in the amendment will make the process of paying for college significantly easier for students and their families, and strengthen the accuracy and effectiveness of the administration of these programs.

Finally, the bill includes additional funding for the Federal Pell Grant program, which is the cornerstone of federal student aid. These grants enable millions of low-income students to access and afford college, and we appreciate the inclusion of additional support for this valuable program.

We urge you and the senators you represent to support this amendment, and look forward to working with you to see this language passed into law.

Sincerely,



Ted Mitchell
President

On behalf of:

American Association of Community Colleges
American Council on Education
American Indian Higher Education Consortium
Association of American Universities
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities
National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
UNCF