

## **Statement by Higher Education Associations in Opposition to Trump Administration Compact**

The Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education opens with the assertion that “American higher education is the envy of the world and represents a key strategic benefit for our Nation.” We wholeheartedly agree. Yet we are deeply concerned that the compact’s prescriptions threaten to undermine the very qualities that make our system exceptional.

The conditions it outlines run counter to the interests of institutions, students, scholars, and the nation itself. It would impose unprecedented litmus tests on colleges and universities as a condition for receiving ill-defined “federal benefits” related to funding and grants.

That is why our associations, which span the breadth of the American higher education community and the full spectrum of colleges and universities nationwide, are unified in our opposition to the compact.

The compact offers nothing less than government control of a university’s basic and necessary freedoms—the freedoms to decide who we teach, what we teach, and who teaches—as outlined by Justice Frankfurter seventy-five years ago. The compact is just the kind of excessive federal overreach and regulation, to the detriment of state and local input and control, that this administration says it is against.

Now more than ever, we must unite to protect the values and principles that have made American higher education the global standard. This compact would not achieve those goals. Rather, it would hamper the ability of colleges and universities to innovate and make advancements that contribute to our nation’s economic well-being and security. It would hinder, not safeguard, freedom of expression for all points of view, and it will not assist in expanding social and economic mobility for all of our students.

To be clear, we agree that higher education has room for improvement and we strive to do more to spur student success and support the discovery-based research that fuels our new industries. We want to do this in collaboration with policymakers and industry, but undue government control is not the way for higher education to deliver on all of its promise. The compact is a step in the wrong direction. The dictates set by it are harmful for higher education and our entire nation, no matter your politics. We urge the administration to reverse course and withdraw the compact.

On behalf of:

Achieving the Dream

ACPA-College Student Educators International

American Association of Colleges and Universities

American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admission Officers

American Association of University Professors

American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges  
American College Health Association  
American Council of Learned Societies  
American Council on Education  
Association for Institutional Research  
Association for the Study of Higher Education  
Association of American Law Schools  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities  
Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges  
Association of Research Libraries  
Campus Compact  
College and University Professional Association for Human Resources  
COGR  
Council for Advancement and Support of Education  
Council for Christian Colleges & Universities  
Council for Opportunity in Education  
Council of Graduate Schools  
Council of Independent Colleges  
Council on Social Work Education  
EDUCAUSE  
NAFSA: Association of International Educators  
National Association for College Admission Counseling  
National Association of College and University Business Officers  
National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education  
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators  
National Council for Community and Education Partnerships  
Phi Beta Kappa Society  
Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration  
UPCEA - The Online and Professional Education Association