

July 29, 2019

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Betsy DeVos
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Mr. President and Madam Secretary:

We, the undersigned, in support of the more than 80,000 California residents enrolled in distance education programs at nonprofit and public institutions, are writing to request immediate action to prevent these students from losing access to Title IV federal financial aid in the wake of the recent U.S. Department of Education guidance regarding state authorization. We represent nonprofit and public institutions whose students are impacted by this situation, as well as for-profit and in-state institutions whose students are not affected but who believe that this problem needs immediate resolution.

The impacted California students, mostly working adults juggling jobs, family, and finances to advance their education and achieve better lives for themselves and their families, rely on Title IV federal financial aid, including Pell Grants and Federal Direct Student Loans. They are teachers, veterans, nurses, and IT professionals, and they contribute significantly to California's economy as they earn and learn. For many of them, implementation of this Department of Education guidance will force them to drop out of school, likely leaving them with student debt and no degree.

We are aware of and are encouraged by state and federal efforts to develop a permanent solution to restore these students' eligibility for federal aid. We encourage the administration to work with California to make sure a permanent solution is implemented immediately and is retroactive to May 26, 2019, allowing students to continue their education uninterrupted and without financial duress. We stand ready to work with our state and federal partners to reach a resolution and look forward to guidance to quickly solve this problem for our students.

Sincerely,



David W. Andrews, Ph.D.
President
National University
Director, Presidents Forum



Joe D. May
Chancellor
Dallas County Community College District
Director, Presidents Forum



Scott D. Pulsipher
President
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On behalf of the following institutions:

American Public University System
Charter Oak State College
Dallas County Community College
Distance Education Accrediting Commission
Excelsior College
National University
Purdue University Global
Quality Matters
Rio Salado College
Southern New Hampshire University
University of Maryland Global Campus
Western Governors University

cc: The Honorable Gavin Newsom
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814