

February 4, 2022

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: FY 2022 Appropriations

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

On behalf of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) and the 88 undersigned Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) and Emerging HSIs, we urge you to quickly enact fiscal year 2022 funding, as it relates to education and HSIs. The number of HSIs continues to grow, increasing from 311 in 2010 to 569 in 2019. As a group, HSIs play a critical role in educating a diverse pool of students. They enroll two-thirds of the estimated 3.8 million Hispanic college students in American higher education, many of whom are first-generation college students and come from low-income families.

Additionally, while HSIs account for 17% of all colleges and universities, they enroll 33% of Pell recipients in the United States. As the nation looks to rebuild the economy after the COVID-19 pandemic, it is critical that existing federal investments strengthen our workforce by enhancing the educational infrastructure of HSIs to pave a path of success and opportunity for students they educate and serve.

For decades, HSIs have been historically underfunded and underserved. In the last four months of this fiscal year, HSIs and their 5.24 million students have endured undue hardship due to the pandemic. In a time when the budget is currently operating on temporary funding, frozen at levels that were created by the previous administration and inadequate to meet the needs of institutions and their students, this inadequacy in funding further exacerbates the inequity that has existed for far too long.

The House-passed FY22 appropriations bill tries to address this inequity in funding by investing \$236.7 million in Title V, Part A and \$28.8 million in Title V, Part B. It also includes \$20 million for the HSIs education grants program under the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The House bill also increases the Pell grant amount to \$400 and allows Dreamers and students with temporary protected status to be eligible. The Pell grant has not kept up with the rising cost of college. Congress needs to make the necessary investments to restore the purchasing power of the Pell and allow for the full coverage of college costs, including books and rent.

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The future of the American workforce depends on how well students are educated for the challenges for the 21st Century. Education is the great equalizer and the gateway to economic opportunity. We appreciate your support and leadership of all students educated and served by HSIs. HACU and our nation's HSI leaders stand ready to work with you and serve as a resource. Please do not hesitate to contact me at antonio.flores@hacu.net or at 210-576-3214.

Respectfully,



Antonio R. Flores
HACU President and CEO

cc: The Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto, U.S. Senator
The Honorable Martin Heinrich, U.S. Senator
The Honorable John Hickenlooper, U.S. Senator
The Honorable Mark Kelly, U.S. Senator
The Honorable Ben Ray Lujan, U.S. Senator
The Honorable Joe Manchin, U.S. Senator
The Honorable Bob Menendez, U.S. Senator
The Honorable Alex Padilla, U.S. Senator
The Honorable Jacky Rosen, U.S. Senator
The Honorable Kyrsten Sinema, U.S. Senator
The Honorable Joaquin Castro, U.S. Representative
The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart, U.S. Representative
The Honorable Jenniffer Gonzalez-Colon, U.S. Representative
The Honorable Raul Grijalva, U.S. Representative
The Honorable Raul Ruiz, U.S. Representative

Co-signed by the following HSIs and Emerging HSIs:

Alabama

Stillman College

Arizona

GateWay Community College
Glendale Community College
Ottawa University

California

California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
California State University, Bakersfield
California State University Channel Islands
California State University, East Bay
California State University, Fresno

California State University, Fullerton
California State University, Maritime Academy
California State University, Monterey Bay
California State University, Sacramento
California State University, San Bernardino
California State University, San Marcos
California State University System
Cuyamaca College
Moreno Valley College
National University
Rio Hondo College
Riverside Community College District
San Diego Miramar College
San Diego State University
San Francisco State University
San José State University
Santa Clara University
Sonoma State University
Southwestern Community College District
University of California Davis
University of California Santa Cruz
University of La Verne

Colorado

Adams State University

Illinois

DePaul University
Elgin Community College
Harold Washington College
St. Augustine College
University of Illinois Chicago

Iowa

Iowa Wesleyan University

Nevada

College of Southern Nevada

New Jersey

Bergen Community College
Bloomfield College
Caldwell University
Fairleigh Dickinson University
Hudson County Community College
Pillar College
Rutgers University Newark
Union County College
William Paterson University

New Mexico

Central New Mexico Community College
Southwestern College
University of New Mexico
University of New Mexico
University of the Southwest
Western New Mexico University

New York

Boricua College
College of Mount Saint Vincent
Dominican College
Hostos Community College
Purchase College
Queensborough Community College
Rockland Community College
Vaughn College

Ohio

Case Western Reserve University

Pennsylvania

Lackawanna College
Mercy College of Ohio
Montgomery County Community College

Puerto Rico

Inter American University of Puerto Rico, Arecibo Campus
Inter American University of Puerto Rico, San Germán Campus
Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico

Texas

Hallmark University
Laredo College
Northeast Lakeview College
Our Lady of the Lake University
San Antonio College
St. Edward's University
Texas A&M International University
University of North Texas Dallas
University of North Texas
University of Texas at Austin
University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley
University of Texas at San Antonio

Utah

Weber State University

Virginia

Marymount University

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Heritage University

Wisconsin
Marquette University