

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 4, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy,

As you consider additional stimulus measures to combat the economic effects of COVID-19, we respectfully request that you provide support to our nation's higher education institutions. While colleges and universities have effectively dealt with a rapid transition to remote instruction, this transition has led to the loss of billions of dollars in revenue through the suspension of in-person classes, early termination of student housing and dining contracts, interruption of on-campus services and countless other losses. These institutions serve as foundations for their community, and their full recovery must be a top priority for Congress. In California, for example, the University of California includes more than 285,000 students, 180,000 faculty and staff, and more than 2 million living alumni from 10 campuses across the state. The California State University System is the largest system of four-year higher education in the country, with 23 campuses, 53,000 faculty and staff and 482,000 students. The California Community Colleges is the largest higher education system in the nation, with 115 colleges serving over 2.1 million students.

The more than \$14 billion dollars provided to the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) that was authorized under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was an important initial step toward meeting the urgent needs of students and the colleges and universities that serve them, but more support is desperately needed. We therefore request that you provide additional support to students and institutions by increasing the HEERF by \$47 billion.

Additionally, as schools continue to instruct remotely, we request the creation of a technology fund administered by institutions to help ensure that all students are able to participate in remote learning by facilitating access to broadband or hotspots. Furthermore, a technology fund specific to higher education would help ensure that students with disabilities or additional needs receive the proper tools in order to continue education and help close the academic achievement gap.

We encourage you to include the above in any forthcoming legislation in response to this pandemic. Thank you for your continued leadership during this uncertain time.

Sincerely,



Doris Matsui
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Alan Lowenthal
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Jared Huffman
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

John Garamendi
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Mike Thompson
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

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