

October 27, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Room H-305, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Room S-221, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Schumer:

We, the undersigned organizations, write to urge you to preserve critical investments in college affordability and college completion in the final Build Back Better package.

In the wake of the pandemic, the nation's higher education system is at a crossroads. A college degree remains a key driver of economic mobility, but many students cannot afford to earn a degree without taking on burdensome debt — and too many students who start college don't complete a degree at all.

By making college more affordable; investing in evidence-based completion strategies that help more students get across the graduation stage; and supporting institutions that serve underrepresented students such as Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Tribal Colleges and Universities, as well as Hispanic-serving Institutions, Predominantly Black Institutions, and Asian American, Native American, and Pacific Islander minority-serving institutions, lawmakers can advance a strong recovery, close longstanding racial and economic disparities in college access and degree attainment, and ultimately ensure long-term prosperity and competitiveness for the United States.

Simply put, we cannot build back better without investing in our nation's postsecondary students and institutions. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

ACPA-College Student Educators International  
ACT  
Alliance for Youth Action  
America Forward  
American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers  
American Association of Community Colleges  
American Association of State Colleges and Universities  
American Association of University Professors  
American Association of University Women (AAUW)  
American College Health Association  
American Council on Education

American Dental Education Association  
American Federation of Teachers  
American Indian Higher Education Consortium  
APIA Scholars  
APPA, "Leadership in Educational Facilities"  
Association of American Colleges and Universities  
Association of American Universities  
Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities  
Association of Community College Trustees  
Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges  
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities  
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities  
Association of Research Libraries  
Association of Young Americans (AYA)  
Campaign for College Opportunity  
Center for American Progress  
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)  
Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities (CUMU)  
College Success Foundation  
Common App  
Consumer Action  
Council for Opportunity in Education  
Council for Advancement and Support of Education  
Council for Christian Colleges & Universities  
Council for Higher Education Accreditation  
Council of Graduate Schools  
Council of Independent Colleges  
Denise Smith, The Century Foundation  
Education Forward Arizona  
Education Reform Now  
EDUCAUSE  
Excelencia in Education  
Generation Progress  
Higher Learning Advocates  
Institute for Higher Education Policy  
Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR)  
NAFSA: Association of International Educators  
NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education  
National Association for College Admission Counseling  
National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO)  
National Association of College and University Business Officers  
National Association of Colleges and Employers  
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities  
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

Higher Education Coalition Reconciliation Letter  
October 27, 2021

National College Attainment Network  
National Consumer Law Center (on behalf of its low-income clients)  
National Education Association  
New America Higher Education Program  
Ohio Student Association  
Phi Beta Kappa Society  
Public Higher Education Network of Massachusetts (PHENOM)  
Results for America  
Rise  
Southern California College Access Network  
State Higher Education Executive Officers Association  
Student Debt Crisis Center (SDCC)  
The Education Trust  
The Institute for College Access & Success (TICAS)  
Third Way  
TMCF  
uAspire  
UnidosUS  
UPCEA  
Young Invincibles