



September 20, 2023

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Endorsement of the Credit Card Competition Act of 2023 (S. 1838/H.R. 3881)

Dear Senator Durbin,

On behalf of the American Council on Education, the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers, the National Association of College and University Business Officers, and the National Association of College Stores, I am writing to express our strong support for the bipartisan and bicameral Credit Card Competition Act of 2023 (CCCA). The CCCA builds on your past successful provisions incorporated into the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to reduce debit card transaction fees, which the higher education community supported. The bill will similarly foster genuine credit card market competition and choice in an effort to protect consumers by reducing excessive credit card transaction fees for students, their families, and the higher education institutions that serve them.

Excessive credit card transaction fees negatively impact everything from bursar billing for tuition and fees, alumni events and activities, fundraising, food services, hospital and medical centers, conference facilities, athletic and cultural events, campus bookstores, libraries, parking garages, and many other activities on campus and online where credit card payments are accepted.

The CCCA will allow colleges and universities the option to choose a processing network for Visa and Mastercard credit cards, a duopoly that currently holds approximately 80 percent of the credit card market, provided by the largest banks in the United States. The resulting competition and choice between processing networks would incentivize better service and lower costs for the benefit of students, their families, and colleges and universities. We support true competition in the market and preventing any future duopolies that would increase transaction fees.

In an era when the cost of college continues to be a significant concern, hidden expenses such as credit card transaction fees addressed in your bill are an undue burden on students and their families. The lower credit card transaction fees resulting from your bill for colleges and universities would help enable institutions to alleviate some of the financial strain placed on

students and their families. Lower costs, coupled with increased resources for institutional grant aid and student services, will undoubtedly contribute to a more affordable higher education.

We are pleased to endorse the Credit Card Competition Act and look forward to working with you to advance this important legislation in 2023.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Mitchell", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ted Mitchell
President