



December 10, 2019

## **AAUP joins ACE, Other Higher Ed Groups Calling on House to Pass the FUTURE Act**

Today the AAUP, along with the American Council on Education and over three dozen higher education groups and organizations, issued a joint letter calling on the House to pass H.R.5363, the FUTURE Act. This legislation, which would restore funding to HBCUs and streamline the FAFSA, offers practical solutions to critical issues facing students and institutions. [Read the full letter here:](#)

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy,

On behalf of the organizations listed below, we write to express our strong support for H.R.5363, the FUTURE Act. This legislation is fully offset and offers practical solutions to critical issues facing students and institutions. H.R. 5363 has strong bipartisan support, which is reflected in the fact that previous iterations of this bill passed the House under suspension in September, and an amended version passed the Senate under unanimous consent last week.

This legislation addresses several important issues. First, it would restore, and make permanent, critical mandatory funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, Tribal Colleges and Universities and other Minority-Serving Institutions that had expired at the end of September, allowing those institutions to strengthen STEM education programs and build institutional capacity to better serve students. It is vital that this funding be restored immediately as campuses are already making decisions regarding staffing, facilities and programming, which are directly influenced by the availability of this support.

Beyond the benefits to historically under-resourced institutions, the FUTURE Act would make significant improvements to the federal student aid system, by simplifying and streamlining the processes for applying for student aid and repaying student loans. This will dramatically simplify the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and make it far easier for low- and middle-income families to apply for and receive federal student aid. In addition, the changes proposed in the legislation will also make the process of paying for college significantly easier for students and their families. This bill would also strengthen the accuracy and effectiveness of the administration of these programs.

Finally, the bill includes additional funding for the Federal Pell Grant program, which is the cornerstone of federal student aid. These grants enable millions of low-income students to access and afford college, and we appreciate the inclusion of additional support for this valuable program.

For all of these reasons, we urge you, and the Members you represent, to support this legislation when it comes to the floor for a vote today. We appreciate your attention to this important legislation and look forward to working with you to ensure passage into law of the FUTURE Act.

On behalf of:

Achieving the Dream, Inc.

ACPA-College Student Educators International

American Association of Colleges of Nursing

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 Council on Education

American Dental Education Association

American Indian Higher Education Consortium

Association of American Universities

Association of American Colleges and Universities

Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities

Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges

Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities

Association of Public and Land-grant Universities

College and University Professional Association for Human Resources

Common App

Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area

Council for Advancement and Support of Education

Council for Higher Education Accreditation

Council for Opportunity in Education

Council of Graduate Schools

Council of Independent Colleges

Council on Social Work Education

EDUCAUSE

ETS

Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities

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

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

National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Phi Beta Kappa Society

The College Board

TMCF

UNCF

UPCEA