



July 9, 2020

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member, Committee on Health,
Education, Labor & Pensions
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murray and Minority Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the nation's 1,050 community colleges, the American Association of Community Colleges (AACCC) and the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) enthusiastically support the Coronavirus Child Care and Education Relief Act (CCCERA).

We appreciate the critical stabilization funding for institutions of higher education that your legislation provides. This funding will help our institutions provide vital emergency grants to students, safely deliver quality higher education programs, and deal with crippling state and local budget cuts. We also applaud your use of student headcount as the basis for distributing stabilization funds rather than full-time equivalent (FTE) status. This approach ensures community colleges can provide adequate support during this crisis to their part-time students, who make up more than 64 percent of the students they serve.

Additionally, your legislation gives institutions the authority to decide who should receive emergency aid, rather than limiting support to Title IV-eligible students. As a result, many needy and deserving students may receive aid, including international students, DACA recipients, Dreamers, adult basic education students and others.

We also commend the legislation's commitment to the programs in Title III and Title V in the Higher Education Act. These programs help community colleges serve traditionally under-resourced or underrepresented individuals.

We are particularly excited about the authorization of a new Community College and Industry Partnership Grant program, which would provide \$2 billion over four years for the creation and expansion of community college workforce education programs. Under the program, community colleges would partner with business, state agencies and other key entities to help workers gain in-demand skills. This investment will ensure that community colleges can continue to play a critical role in our nation's economic recovery.

CCCERA also makes significant investments in adult education and literacy as well as career and technical education (CTE) state grants. Community colleges are heavily involved in these programs. These distinct yet integrated initiatives are crucial to ensuring all students have access to the education and training they need to improve their financial situations and bolster the economy. Additional funding for these programs is vital to our long-term economic success.



We look forward to working with you to help enact these and other provisions as stimulus legislation moves forward. These and other policies that we are advocating for will enable our members to help the nation through the pandemic, and onto a brighter economic and social future.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Walter G. Bumphus', enclosed in a thin black rectangular box.

Walter G. Bumphus, Ph.D.
AACCC President and CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'J. Noah Brown', enclosed in a thin black rectangular box.

J. Noah Brown
ACCT President and CEO