



February 3, 2021

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

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-230, U.S. Capitol  
Washington D.C. 20510

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

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-221, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Congressional Leaders:

On behalf of the nation's community colleges, we urge you to swiftly enact stimulus legislation that includes critical stabilization funding for community colleges and their students as they continue to cope with the pandemic.

COVID-19 has presented immense challenges for community colleges and the students they serve. The pandemic has created substantial additional institutional costs, while revenues, including state and local government support, have plummeted. Notably, during the pandemic, public two-year institutions have shouldered the most drastic enrollment declines in higher education. This fall, overall community college enrollment declined by 10.1% from the previous year, and first-year student enrollment has dropped by 21%.

Due to the precipitous reduction in their resources, many community colleges have had to lay off or furlough a number of their employees. This loss of staff further diminishes the resources community colleges can dedicate to providing vital student services during the pandemic.

Late last year, we joined the higher education community in calling for a minimum of \$120 billion in pandemic-relief funding for colleges and universities. We are extremely grateful for the \$22.7 billion in higher education stabilization funding recently provided by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA). However, although this funding will greatly assist our institutions and students, both are in dire need of additional support.



Therefore, we respectfully call for including \$97.3 billion in stabilization funding for institutions of higher education in future stimulus legislation, distributed using the CRRSAA formula, which reflects the needs of both full and part-time students. Not only will these funds help counter drastic budget cuts and enrollment drops, but they will also allow community colleges to provide much needed academic and other support to all students, including international students, DACA recipients, Dreamers and others.

Lastly, we support in the stimulus bill forceful, binding maintenance-of-effort (MOE) language for education. This should be complemented by robust stabilization funding for states and cities. These provisions will help ensure states and localities can continue investing in crucial education and training programs despite pandemic-driven budget shortfalls.

Thank you for your consideration and leadership.

Sincerely,

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

J. Noah Brown  
ACCT President and CEO

Arkansas Community Colleges  
Association of Florida Colleges  
California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office  
Community College Association of Texas Trustees  
Community College League of California  
Community College of Rhode Island  
Community College System of New Hampshire  
Connecticut State Colleges and Universities  
Illinois Community College Board  
Illinois Community College Trustees Association  
Iowa Association of Community College Trustees  
Kansas Association of Community College Trustees  
Kentucky Community and Technical College System  
Louisiana Community and Technical College System  
Maine Community College System  
Maryland Association of Community Colleges  
Maryland Higher Education Commission  
Massachusetts Association of Community Colleges



Michigan Community College Association  
Mississippi Community College Board  
Missouri Community College Association  
Nebraska Community College Association  
Nevada System of Higher Education  
New Jersey Council of County Colleges  
New Mexico Independent Community Colleges, Inc.  
North Carolina Association of Community College Trustees  
North Carolina Community College System  
South Carolina Association of Technical College Commissioners  
South Carolina Technical College System  
Ohio Association of Community Colleges  
Oregon Community College Association  
Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges  
Tennessee Board of Regents  
University of Hawaii Community Colleges  
Virginia Community College System  
Washington State Association of Community College Trustees  
Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges  
Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association  
Wisconsin Technical College System  
Wyoming Association of Community College Trustees  
Wyoming Community College Commission