

September 17, 2025

National Headquarters
4801 NW Loop 410, Suite 701
San Antonio, Texas 78229
210-692-3805 (voice) 210-692-0823 (fax)
www.hacu.net



The Honorable Bill Cassidy
Chairman
Senate Committee on HELP
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bernie Sanders
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on HELP
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cassidy and Ranking Member Sanders:

We, the undersigned Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs), emerging HSIs, and education partners, are deeply alarmed by the Administration's decision to abandon its defense of the HSI program in federal court, and abruptly announcing the defunding of all Minority-Serving Institution (MSI) programs. This unprecedented step threatens to dismantle a program Congress created to strengthen institutions that already serve high percentages of Latino students. The lawsuit, *State of Tennessee & Students for Fair Admissions v. U.S. Department of Education*, wrongly claims that the HSI program is unconstitutional. **In reality, it falls well within the authority of Congress to recognize and remedy racial disparities in education.**

Eliminating the HSI program would disproportionately harm Latino communities, but the damage would not stop there. These federal funds support a wide range of initiatives, including campus infrastructure projects, science labs, advising and curriculum development, that benefit all students attending HSIs. Stripping institutions of resources because they serve Latino students is unjust and legally unsound. The HSI program is not about preferential treatment; it is about equitable resource allocation to ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed. Without it, our ability to prepare the next generation of leaders, innovators, and workers will be severely undermined.

We urge you to:

- **Publicly sound the alarm about the Administration's refusal to defend the HSI program.**
- **Reaffirm congressional support for HSIs and the 5.6 million students served nationwide.**
- **Ensure continued protection and funding for the HSI program in the face of these attacks.**

Congress must act now. Without your leadership, the voices of students and communities served by HSIs will go unheard.

Respectfully,

The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities
Adams State University
Alamo Colleges District
Allan Hancock College
Antelope Valley Community College District
Associated Students at Santa Monica College
Atenas University

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Aurora University
Austin Community College District
Barstow Community College
Bergen Community College
Berkeley City College
Borough of Manhattan Community College / CUNY
Bronx Community College CUNY
Bunker Hill Community College
Cabrillo College
Cal Poly Humboldt
Cal Poly Pomona University
California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office
California State University, Bakersfield
California State University, Channel Islands
California State University, Chico
California State University, Dominguez Hill
California State University, East Bay
California State University, Fresno
California State University, Fullerton
California State University, Long Beach
California State University, Los Angeles
California State University, Monterey Bay
California State University, San Marcos
California State University, Northridge
California State University, San Bernardino
California State University, Stanislaus
Cerritos College
Chabot-Las Positas Community College District
Changing Perspectives
Citrus College
City University of New York (CUNY)
Coast Community College District
Coastline Community College
College of Marin
Colorado State University, Pueblo
Columbia Basin College
Columbia Gorge Community College
Community College of Aurora
Compton College
Concordia University Texas
Contra Costa Community College District
Crafton Hills College
Criswell College
Cuesta College
De Anza College
Dodge City Community College

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Dominican University
Donnelly College
EDP University of Puerto Rico
Elgin Community College
Fair360
Fairleigh Dickinson University
Farmingdale State College, SUNY
Felician University
Foothill College
Foothill-De Anza Community College District
Gateway Technical College
Gavilan College
Golden West College
Goshen College
Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District
Hallmark University
Harold Washington College
Harry S Truman College
Heritage University
Holyoke Community College
Hostos Community College, The City University of New York
Hudson County Community College
Hunter College, CUNY
Illinois Latino Council on Higher Education
Imperial Valley College
Inter American University, Fajardo Campus
John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York
Joliet Junior College
Kern Community College District
Kingsborough Community College
LA Mission College
La Sierra University
Lake Tahoe Community College District
Laredo College
Las Positas College
Lee College
Lewis University
Loma Linda University
Long Beach City College
Los Medanos College
Loyola Marymount University
Malcolm X College
Marymount University
Menlo College
MiraCosta College
Mohave College
Montclair State University

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Mount Mary University
Mount Saint Mary's University
Mt. San Antonio College
Mt. San Jacinto College
Napa Valley College
New Jersey City University
New Mexico Independent Community Colleges
Newman University
Norco College
North Orange County Community College District
North Shore Community College
Northeastern Illinois University
Northern Essex Community College
Orange Coast College
Our Lady of the Lake University
Palo Verde Community College District
Pasadena City College
Peralta Community College District
Prairie State College
Pueblo Community College
Queensborough Community College, CUNY
Raritan Valley Community College
Redwoods Community College District
Riverside City College
Riverside Community College District
Sacramento State
Saint Peter's University
Salem State University
San Bernardino Community College District
San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools
San Bernardino Valley College
San Diego Community College District (includes San Diego City College, San Diego Mesa College, San Diego Miramar College)
San Diego State University
San Francisco State University
San Jacinto College
San Jose - Evergreen Community College District
San José State University
Santa Fe Community College
Santa Monica Community College District
Santiago Canyon College
Sonoma County Junior College District
Sonoma State University
South Orange County Community College District
Southeast New Mexico College
Southwest Texas College

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Southwestern College
St. Mary's University
State Center Community College District
Student Senate for California Community Colleges
Taft College
The California State University
Tillamook Bay Community College
Universidad Politécnica de Puerto Rico
University of California, Davis
University of California, Merced
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, Riverside
University of California, Santa Cruz
University of Mount Saint Vincent
University of Redlands
University of the Southwest
Urban College of Boston
Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology
Ventura College
Ventura County Community College District
Victor Valley College
Wayland Baptist University
Western Connecticut State University
Western Oregon University
Wilbur Wright College
William Rainey Harper College
Yakima Valley College
Yuba Community College District
ZogoTech