

December 10, 2019

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Senate Committee on Health, Education,
Labor, and Pensions
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Health, Education,
Labor, and Pensions
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray:

The National Council of Higher Education Resources (NCHER) writes in support of H.R. 5363, the Fostering Undergraduate Talent by Unlocking Resources for Education or FUTURE Act. NCHER supports providing permanent funding to Historically Black Colleges and Universities and other Minority-Serving Institutions so that they can continue to carry out their important missions. We also support allowing the Internal Revenue Service to share taxpayer information with the U.S. Department of Education in order to simplify the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and streamline income-driven repayment for millions of students and families. The complexity of the FAFSA is one of the primary challenges that students have with understanding the federal financial aid system, which must be streamlined to reduce barriers to higher education for low- and moderate-income students who often believe that a postsecondary education is unaffordable.

The amended version of the FUTURE Act would accomplish two of the most pressing needs facing postsecondary education without eliminating Account Maintenance Fees or AMF paid to guaranty agencies, as envisioned under the original House bill. State and nonprofit guaranty agencies are required under the Higher Education Act to provide important services to students, borrowers, families, and the federal government in order to increase access to and success in postsecondary education. The administrative funds that these agencies receive from the federal government are critical to helping first-generation and low-income college students.

NCHER and its members commend your leadership in developing a bipartisan agreement that is a win-win for students and their families, and support passage of H.R. 5363. We look forward to continuing our work with both the Senate and House on a comprehensive reauthorization of the Higher Education that increases college access and success in postsecondary education.

Sincerely,



James P. Bergeron
President