



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

December 4, 2020

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

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy,

As cosponsors of the bipartisan College Transparency Act (H.R. 1766), one of the most bipartisan bills in Congress, we are writing today to respectfully request that you ensure it is included in an end of year legislative package in December, including any appropriations spending measure that passes Congress.

In the House, the College Transparency Act currently has 234 co-sponsors - including 83 Republicans and 151 Democrats – putting it in the top one percent of bills in the House by number of cosponsors. In the Senate, the companion bill, S. 800, has 37 co-sponsors - 20 Republicans and 17 Democrats. When combined, this represents over half of all Members in the two chambers. The strong bipartisan support for CTA includes lawmakers from a wide ideological spectrum and broad representation from numerous key committees. It is a top priority for organizations advocating for educational equity, workforce development, businesses, youth, and veterans, and has been endorsed by approximately 200 advocacy organizations.

The College Transparency Act closes significant gaps in college data reporting by establishing a privacy-protected postsecondary data system at the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). Specifically, this new system will collect and report on student outcomes such as enrollment, completion, and post-college success to help prospective students determine which programs of study match their interests and career aspirations. Unlike under the current data reporting system, this data must be disaggregated by factors including but not limited to: race, ethnicity, and veteran's status. NCES would be responsible for securely storing student information, working with relevant federal agencies to generate post-college outcomes reports based on cohort data, and presenting the summary information on a user-friendly website for students and families.

As we collectively take bold and decisive actions to lead our nation through the current economic crisis due to the global pandemic, the need for the College Transparency Act has never been more urgent. For example, due to the current economic crisis, we will likely experience significant changes in enrollment at higher education institutions and a proliferation of new credentials designed to help workers adapt to the changing economy. It is critical that we measure the success of students in higher education comprehensively and with meaningful measures, producing information that will help those prospective students identify the institutions and programs that will provide them with the best return on investment of their time and money. Particularly given that the ongoing financial challenges facing our country may extend years into the future, coupled with growing national student debt, CTA will help students find the programs that best prepare them to enter the workforce with skills employers need by providing them with accurate earnings and employment information on both the institution and program level before they decide where to enroll, what to study, and how to pay for it.

Furthermore, as this nation rebuilds its economy and businesses seek to recruit and retain tomorrow's workforce, CTA will enable employers to strengthen their talent pipeline by using data to find the programs and institutions that are graduating individuals with the skills they need, or to establish new programs with colleges that can help meet their needs. Finally, colleges and universities will benefit by having access to data that demonstrates the outcomes of their programs so that they can take the necessary steps to enhance student success.

With overwhelming bipartisan and bicameral support, we strongly believe CTA should be included in an end of year legislative package, such as any appropriations spending measure that passes Congress. With an enacted and operational student-level data system as provided under CTA, students and families, policymakers, institutions of higher education, and employers will have access to more complete information about college access, success, costs, and outcomes so that they can make more informed decisions. In addition, the federal government will promote the wise spending of taxpayer dollars and ensure our higher education system is best preparing students for in-demand, family-sustaining careers, which will benefit our workforce and our overall economy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Paul Mitchell
Member of Congress

Andy Barr
Member of Congress

Michael Cloud
Member of Congress

Mike Gallagher
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress

John Joyce
Member of Congress

Darin LaHood
Member of Congress

Debbie Lesko
Member of Congress

Roger Marshall
Member of Congress

John Moolenaar
Member of Congress

Lloyd Smucker
Member of Congress

Bryan Steil
Member of Congress

Steve Stivers
Member of Congress

Steve Watkins
Member of Congress

Robert J. Wittman
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

Vincente Gonzalez
Member of Congress

Hank Johnson
Member of Congress

Susie Lee
Member of Congress

Gregory Meeks
Member of Congress

Katie Porter
Member of Congress

Albio Sires
Member of Congress

Elissa Slotkin
Member of Congress

Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress

Josh Harder
Member of Congress

David Trone
Member of Congress

Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

Marc Veasey
Member of Congress

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

Conor Lamb
Member of Congress

Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress

Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress

Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress

Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress

Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

John Garamendi
Member of Congress

Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

Luis Correa
Member of Congress

Jason Crow
Member of Congress

Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress

Jesús G. “Chuy” García
Member of Congress

Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress

Judy Chu
Member of Congress

Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress

Dwight Evans
Member of Congress

Jared Huffman
Member of Congress

Ann M. Kuster
Member of Congress

Joseph Morelle
Member of Congress

Donald Norcross
Member of Congress

Tom O’Halloran
Member of Congress

Abigail D. Spanberger
Member of Congress

Paul Tonko
Member of Congress

Xochitl Torres Small
Member of Congress

Lori Trahan
Member of Congress

Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress

Ro Khanna
Member of Congress

Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress

Katherine Clark
Member of Congress

Don Beyer
Member of Congress

Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress

Colin Allred
Member of Congress

G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

David Cicilline
Member of Congress

Jim Cooper
Member of Congress

Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress

Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress

Kathleen Rice
Member of Congress

Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress

Donna Shalala
Member of Congress

Darren Soto
Member of Congress

Dean Phillips
Member of Congress