

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 17, 2021

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chairwoman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Murray and Ranking Member Blunt:

As you consider the fiscal year (FY) 2022 appropriations process, we request that you continue to support Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). This is a critical time to invest in HBCUs, which collectively enroll nearly 300,000 students. HBCUs serve as a gateway to the middle class for many first-generation, low-income, and minority Americans. Further, an HBCU education has been the common thread that runs through the stories of many of our nation's great leaders, innovators, and job creators.

A report by UNCF found that HBCUs generate \$14.8 billion in total economic impact, as well as over 134,000 jobs, both on-campus and off. Having an HBCU degree lifted the lifetime earnings of their graduates by 56 percent – or an estimated \$130 billion – over what they would have earned without their degree. Increased federal aid will only add to the job creating capacity of these institutions, and will support more students who will be able to reap the benefits of having a degree from an HBCU.¹

While there are many programs across the federal agencies that are important to HBCUs, we want to highlight the following top programs that impact the HBCU community:

Title III, Part B of the *Higher Education Act, Strengthening Historically Black Colleges and Universities* is the key program providing institutional support for academic programs, student services, infrastructure, and technology needs. Because HBCUs have traditionally been under-resourced, this formula-based program provides critical support to daily functions on campus as well as innovative efforts to produce graduates prepared for the modern, global workforce.

Title III, Part C, Section 331 of the *Higher Education Act, Endowment Challenge Grants* provides matching grants to assist HBCUs and minority-serving institutions (MSIs) in establishing or increasing their endowments to promote self-sufficiency. This program has not

¹ <https://uncf.org/programs/hbcu-impact>

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been funded since FY 1995, despite being authorized, and doing so would encourage a broad group of individuals and businesses to invest in sustaining and growing endowments at HBCUs and MSIs.

Title VII, Part A, Subpart 4 of the *Higher Education Act*, Masters Degree Programs at HBCUs provides resources to specific HBCUs identified in Section 723 that are determined by the Secretary of Education to be making substantial contribution to graduate education at the masters level in “mathematics, engineering, the physical or natural sciences, computer science, information technology, nursing, allied health, and other scientific disciplines.” This program remains critical for our HBCUs to ensure quality instruction of the aforementioned disciplines.

HBCU Capital Financing Program: Despite the important role HBCUs play in higher education, they have struggled financially due to having smaller endowments, less money from alumni giving, and lower levels of federal investment. As a result, the infrastructure of many of these institutions has not kept pace with their growing student bodies and the demands of training students for careers in the 21st century. The HBCU Capital Financing Program provides HBCUs with access to capital financing or refinancing for the repair, renovation, and construction of campus infrastructure.

It is vital that there is sustained and strong public investment in HBCUs to grow their capacity to prepare young people of color for careers of success and service. We urge you to provide the necessary federal resources to support these institutions. We are grateful for your past support and thank you for your continued leadership this year.

Sincerely,



Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



Tim Scott
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Thom Tillis
United States Senator

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Cory Booker
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

/s/ Thomas R. Carper

Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator

/s/ Robert P. Casey, Jr.

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Richard Durbin
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

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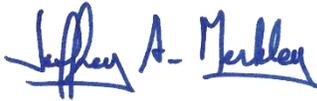
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