



December 10, 2019

The Honorable Bobby Scott
Chairman
House Committee on Education and Labor
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Virginia Foxx
Ranking Member
House Committee on Education and Labor
2101 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal
Chairman
House Committee on Ways and Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Ranking Member
House Committee on Ways and Means
1139 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Scott, Ranking Member Foxx, Chairman Neal, and Ranking Member Brady:

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 an extension of Title III, Part B, 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. 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 the development of a bipartisan agreement that is a win-win for students and their families, and support passage of H.R. 5363. We look forward to working on a comprehensive, bipartisan reauthorization of the Higher Education that increases college access and success in postsecondary education.

Sincerely,

James P. Bergeron
President