



Statements from Leaders and Organizations Supporting *America's College Promise Act*

Statement by J. Noah Brown, President and CEO of the Association of Community College Trustees

“Investments in community colleges and students have shown to be of great economic and societal benefit. For every public dollar spent on community colleges there is a \$6.80 return in the form of higher tax receipts and less public assistance. Over the course of their careers individuals with an associate’s degree will earn nearly \$500,000 more than high school graduates. We strongly support structuring this program to support low-income Pell Grant students by preserving the availability of the award for full cost of attendance. This will allow students to borrow less, and potentially persist at a faster rate. Additionally, we support requirements that ensure states continue to invest in higher education.”

Statement by Dr. Michael Lomax, President and CEO of the United Negro College Fund

“This legislation is a game-changer for reducing the cost of college, lowering student debt, expanding educational opportunity, and closing the educational divide for millions of students, particularly students of color who otherwise could not enter the college door. HBCUs have earned the right to be called America’s best buy for students and the nation. HBCUs produce nearly 20 percent of all African American bachelor’s degrees, yet they do this with less resources and at affordable costs for their students. Congress was very wise to include HBCUs as a key component of this program, as they consistently outperform other institutions at educating students from low-income families. This bill will ensure that more deserving students get the opportunity to go to college and build a better future for themselves and our country.”

Statement by Antonio R. Flores, President and CEO of Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities

“The bill recognizes the important role that Minority-Serving Institutions play in providing higher education access and success for many low-income and first-generation students, and will help ameliorate the financial burden of many students who may not otherwise be able to attend college.”

Statement by Neil Horikoshi, President & Executive Director of Asian and Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund

“The America’s College Promise Act paves the path for a better tomorrow – one in which all young Americans, regardless of income, will have greater opportunity to access and complete college. As President and Executive Director of the Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (APIASF), I am especially pleased to know that all minority-serving institutions including AANAPISI campuses and Pacific Island campuses in the U.S. Territories and Freely Associated States would benefit from this legislation. APIASF stands in strong support of America’s College Promise Act, which, similar to our mission, will create opportunities for students who will ultimately contribute to a more vibrant America.”

Statement by the Hon. Robert A. Underwood, President of the University of Guam

"We in APIACU are very supportive of this legislation which will increase the trajectory of college access and completion for all of our citizens. We are especially gratified at the inclusion of all minority-serving institutions and all territories and freely-associated states. No stone will be left unturned even if that stone is in a small island where the American flag flies."

Statement by Ruby G. Moy, President of Asian Pacific Islander Association of Colleges and Universities (APIACU)

"This is a huge step forward for those who have been waiting so long for recognition. The recognition of minority serving institutions – especially AANAPISIs in the Pacific Rim, U.S. Territories and Freely Associated States – is very important. APIACU is glad to be able to contribute in this historic moment."

Statement from Southeast Asia Resource Action Center

"America's College Promise will provide students from low-income families and students of color more opportunities to pursue higher education, including many who may be the first in their families to attend college. Many of our community members wonder whether they can afford college. With legislation like America's College Promise, all of our students can be on their way to success like Ta Kwe Say. SEARAC is a strong supporter of America's College Promise and urges Congress to make this vision a reality."

Statement from Carrie Billy, President and CEO of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium

"Enactment of this legislation will mean that more American Indians and Alaska Natives will be able to access – and most important, complete – a degree program in a field that will help our tribes grow their Native workforce. Tribal colleges are locally-based, tribally-driven institutions of higher education that award predominately two-year associate degrees and certificates to Native students and others throughout Indian Country. TCUs serve some of the poorest communities in this country (seven of the 10 poorest counties in the U.S. are home to a tribal college). More than 70 percent of our students are first generation college students and almost 75 percent receive Pell grants. These students, their tribal communities, and the nation as a whole, will benefit tremendously from the America's College Promise legislation."

Statement from Walter G. Bumphus, President and CEO of the American Association of Community Colleges

"The legislation as introduced embodies a dramatic new concept in national education policy, ensuring that first-time students will be able to enroll in high-quality community college programs without having to pay tuition and fees. We believe that this policy will encourage more students to participate in college and succeed. It will do so both by reducing lingering financial barriers, as well as sending a clear and resounding message to the public that college attendance should be as universal as high school."

Statement from Presidents and CEOs of the Alliance for Equity in Higher Education

"We write to thank you for your leadership in advancing America's College Promise Act. It is a good idea to remove financial barriers and expand educational opportunities for 10 million American students seeking 2 year degree and certificates. The bill would expand educational opportunities for tens of millions of students wishing to earn a 2 or 4 year degree but for whom the financial burden might be a barrier. We write in strong support of the America's College Promise Act."