

December 5, 2019

Senator Lamar Alexander  
Chairman  
U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education,  
Labor and Pensions  
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education,  
Labor and Pensions  
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray,

I am writing on behalf of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities' nearly 400-member colleges, universities, and state systems of higher education to congratulate and thank you and your colleagues for crafting an amendment to the House-passed Fostering Undergraduate Talent by Unlocking Resources for Education (FUTURE) Act that provides for permanent mandatory funding for science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and other Minority-Serving Institutions.

As you are aware, the expiration of this funding authority at the end of the last fiscal year has been a source of great concern for the entire higher education community, and the extension and restoration of this vital source of support for underserved students has been a top priority for AASCU. I am therefore delighted to thank you for devising a pragmatic and bipartisan solution that not only extends, but also provides a permanent mandatory funding mechanism for this critical program authorized in Title III, Part F of the Higher Education Act. The campus programs supported by your legislation contribute greatly to the strength of our economy, fuel innovation, and promote the diversification of our future workforce.

I once again thank you for your leadership on this urgent issue and stand ready to work with you and your colleagues to expedite the restoration of the provisions in question.

Sincerely,



Mildred García, Ed.D.  
President