

February 13, 2026

The Honorable Alma Adams
2436 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Support for the Higher Education Oversight for Nonprofits Ensuring Standards and Transparency
(HONEST) Act

Dear Representative Adams:

As president and CEO of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU), and on behalf of our regional public university (RPU) members, I write to thank you for sponsoring the Higher Education Oversight for Nonprofits Ensuring Standards and Transparency (HONEST) Act.

RPUs continue to provide affordable, high-quality pathways to higher education, even as they face growing regulatory requirements and public funding that has not kept up with inflation and the needs of low-income students. Additionally, public debate about the value of a college degree has grown increasingly polarized.

Nonprofit organizations, including institutions of higher education, have had their tax-exempt status threatened for no more than failure to operate in accordance with prevailing administrative orthodoxy. Colleges and universities must be able to carry out their missions—advancing academic achievement, research, and workforce preparation—without concern that lawful operations could trigger punitive action.

The HONEST Act provides important safeguards to ensure transparency, consistency, and fairness in oversight of nonprofit institutions. These protections will help preserve institutional independence and allow RPUs to continue serving students and communities.

For these reasons, AASCU supports the HONEST Act and appreciates your leadership on this issue. Thank you for your continued advocacy and for recognizing the vital role RPUs play in strengthening local communities through access to affordable educational opportunities.

Sincerely,



Dr. Charles L. Welch
President and CEO
American Association of State Colleges and Universities