



February 13, 2026

Chairman Brett Guthrie
House Energy and Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC, 20515

Ranking Member Frank Pallone
House Energy and Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC, 20515

Chairman Robert Aderholt
House Labor-HHS-ED Subcommittee
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC, 20515

Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro
House Labor-HHS-ED Subcommittee
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC, 20515

Chairman Bill Cassidy
Senate HELP Committee
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC, 20510

Ranking Member Bernie Sanders
Senate HELP Committee
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC, 20510

Chairwoman Shelley Moore Capito
Senate Labor-HHS-ED Subcommittee
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC, 20510

Ranking Member Tammy Baldwin
Senate Labor-HHS-ED Subcommittee
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC, 20510

Dear Chairman Guthrie, Ranking Member Pallone, Chairman Aderholt, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chairman Cassidy, Ranking Member Sanders, Chairwoman Capito, and Ranking Member Baldwin:

On behalf of the American Council on Education and the undersigned organizations, we write to thank you for your efforts to increase funding for the Garrett Lee Smith (GLS) Campus Suicide Prevention Grant Program for Fiscal Year 2026. We are deeply appreciative of your steadfast leadership and commitment to supporting the efforts of our institutions to address the mental health and well-being of college students nationwide.

We also thank you for the inclusion of the Senate committee report language directing the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to continue its waiver of matching funds for traditionally under-resourced institutions. This important language ensures that the institutions most in need of suicide prevention resources are not barred from accessing them due to financial constraints. By removing these barriers, you are directly contributing to the safety and well-being of students across the country who might otherwise lack access to life-saving mental health services and programs.

Over the years, the GLS Campus Suicide Prevention Grant Program has been important for many institutions and potentially lifesaving for the thousands of students who have benefited from grant-funded initiatives. By increasing funding for this program, you are allowing more institutions to deliver the support their students urgently need to address mental health challenges they may confront, which helps more students persist and complete their degrees.

This level of investment is extremely important to helping institutions address the growing demand for mental health support on our nation's campuses and will empower more institutions to implement comprehensive, evidence-based strategies to undertake mental health and suicide prevention.

Thank you again for your dedication to the mental health and well-being of our students and campuses and for prioritizing this essential program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Mitchell", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ted Mitchell
President

On behalf of:

Active Minds

American Association of State Colleges and Universities

American College Health Association

American Council on Education

American Psychological Association

Association for University and College Counseling Center Directors

The Healthy Minds Network

The Hope Center

Today's Student Coalition