



November 12, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson and Minority Leader Jeffries,

On behalf of the undersigned higher education associations, we write to offer our support for H.R. 8932, the FAFSA Deadline Act, that will be considered on the House floor this week. This bill would move up the statutory date for the annual release of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) from Jan. 1 to Oct. 1 each year. It is important to ensure that students and families have sufficient time to make one of the biggest financial decisions of their lives. Enacting this legislation would have significant benefits for students applying or returning to college each year, and it is a priority of the higher education community.

Completion of the FAFSA is a crucial first step students and families take to increase access to a more affordable postsecondary education. It is our duty to give our students and their families the proper amount of time to decide the best next step for them, and the FAFSA Deadline Act will do just that by codifying an Oct. 1 deadline for the release of the FAFSA.

Given the issues institutions of higher education faced during the 2024-2025 FAFSA processing cycle, it is critically important to avoid future problems. For this academic year, overall first-year enrollment is down by five percent¹ at least in part due to issues with the 2024-2025 FAFSA. In addition, universal access to the 2025-2026 FAFSA is already delayed and some campus officials have expressed concerns about whether the FAFSA will be fully available by Dec. 1.

We offer our full support for this piece of legislation and hope to see it pass the House. We look forward to continuing to work with Congress as this bill advances.

¹ National Student Clearinghouse Research Center. (2024). *Stay informed with the latest enrollment information: National student clearinghouse research center's regular updates on higher education enrollment.* <https://nscresearchcenter.org/stay-informed/>

Sincerely,



Ted Mitchell
President

On behalf of:

Achieving the Dream

ACPA-College Student Educators International

American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers

American Association of Community Colleges

American Association of State Colleges and Universities

American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges

American Council on Education

American Psychological Association

APPA: Leadership in Educational Facilities

Association of American Medical Colleges

Association of American Universities

Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities

Association of Community College Trustees

Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in Massachusetts

Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania

Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities

Association of Public and Land-grant Universities

Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health

Common App

Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area

Council for Advancement and Support of Education

Council for Christian Colleges & Universities

Council for Opportunity in Education

Council of Graduate Schools

Council on Social Work Education

Great Lakes Colleges Association

Higher Education Loan Coalition

Higher Learning Commission

Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities

Independent Colleges of Indiana

Maryland Independent College and University Association

Middle States Commission on Higher Education
National Association of College and University Business Officers
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
New England Commission of Higher Education
North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities
Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges
State Higher Education Executive Officers Association
WASC Senior College and University Commission
Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities

cc: Members of the House of Representatives